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**HISTORY**  
OF  
**THE LATE WAR,**  
BETWEEN THE  
**UNITED STATES AND GREAT BRITAIN;**  
CONTAINING  
*AN ACCURATE ACCOUNT*  
OF THE  
**MOST IMPORTANT ENGAGEMENTS**  
BY  
**SEA AND LAND.**

Interspersed with interesting  
**GEOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES**  
OF THOSE PARTS OF THE COUNTRY  
WHERE THE PRINCIPAL BATTLES WERE FOUGHT.

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SECOND EDITION.  
BY J. C. GILLELAND.

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*BALTIMORE:*

Printed and published by *Schaeffer & Maund*:

1817.

## COPY-RIGHT.

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### District of Maryland, to wit :

BE IT REMEMBERED, That on the eighteenth day of January,  
\*\*\*\*\* in the forty-first year of the Independence of the United  
\* SEAL.\* States of America, FREDERICK G. SHAEFFER and  
\*\*\*\*\* THOMAS MAUND, of the said District, hath deposited  
in this office, the title of a Book, the right whereof they claim  
as Proprietors, in the words following, to wit :

*"History of the late War between the United States and Great Britain, containing an accurate account of the most important engagements by sea and land—interspersed with interesting Geographical sketches of those parts of the country where the principal battles were fought. By J. C. Gilleland."*

In conformity to the Act of the Congress of the United States, entitled, "An Act for the encouragement of learning, by securing the Copies of Maps, Charts and Books, to the authors and proprietors of such Copies during the times therein mentioned ;" and also to the Act, entitled, "An Act, supplementary to the Act entitled, "An Act, for the encouragement of learning, by securing the Copies of Maps, Charts and Books, to the authors and proprietors of such Copies, during the times therein mentioned, and extending the benefits thereof to the Arts of designing, engraving and etching historical and other Prints."

PHILIP MOORE, Clerk of the District of Maryland.

## PREFACE.

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The events of the late war, have already exercised the pens of numerous writers, and certainly there could not be a more fruitful subject. The author has attempted a concise narrative of the principal occurrences, freed from voluminous and unnecessary naval and military details. The greater part of the works already published, are in too expensive a shape and bulk for general circulation, or for the use of schools. It is not every petty skirmish, or the unintelligible details of naval affairs, which is suited to the youthful mind: it is only from those important actions which shed honor on our country, that instruction can be derived.

What volume so favorable to the formation of the youthful mind, as that which asserts the dignity of our country, which records the glorious actions of our countrymen, and which proves, that our national character has risen under the influence of our political institutions? The author has, therefore, thrown in the back ground, the minor events of the late glorious war, in order to placing in a more conspicuous point of view, those of a more important character. Our soldiers and sailors have done their duty, it remains for the children of the muses to do theirs.

## CHAPTER I.

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*Causes of the war with England—Orders in Council—Impressment—Indian hostilities.*

THE United States assumed a rank among the nations of the world, in one of the most stormy periods of its history. All Europe was convulsed by the direful effects of the French revolution. The combined efforts of Austria, of Germany, of England, to curb the power of France, produced a convulsive struggle on her part, which had well nigh crumbled their thrones in the dust. The mighty warrior called into political life by this elemental war, seemed to move as the genius of the tempest. One of his ruling maxims was, never to tolerate a neutral; all, therefore, within the reach of his arm, were either allies, vassals, or foes. England, whose erroneous policy had in the first instance given rise to this distempered energy, chose to adopt the same maxim. She moreover, appealed to the world as the defender of the liberties and rights of nations,

and plainly denounced as traitors, those who declined a participation in her quarrels.

Fortunately for this country, the waves of the Atlantic rolled between it and the fury of the European belligerents. However desirous they might be of engaging us in their mad contest, it could only be done through insidious arts, by which the inexperienced are entrapped, or by repeated provocations, calculated to produce a state of mind favorable to their designs. For twenty-five years, these designs were resisted with unshaken firmness. The advice of Washington, to keep aloof from the dangerous contest, was strictly observed. The nation was repeatedly exasperated beyond endurance, but the government opposed itself to the imprudent effects of wounded feeling. It appeared to be a contest between France and England, which could injure us most, and on our part, how long we could forbear. But there is a point at which this forbearance must become not only imprudent, but unjust. As in common life, where a tame submission to injuries invites a repetition of them ; so a youthful nation, like a young man, will find some ruffian desirous of putting its courage to the test, and if found wanting, it is then with impunity insulted by the most arrant coward. The pains we had taken to keep aloof from the European wars, at last came to be taken for pusillanimity, or at least for a want of energy



in the structure of the government. It became fashionable to represent us as a mean and sordid race, incapable of any generous feeling, and exclusively devoted to self-interest, whom no insult, no injury, could provoke to strike; in short, that we could not be "kicked into a war." The practices at first resorted to for the purpose of engaging us to share their battles, were now converted into the ordinary means of supplying their coffers or recruiting their strength. France confiscated and plundered our ships; Spain and some of the petty states followed the example, as though our pacific policy had rendered us lawful prey to all nations. England seemed to think that she had a right to transfer our seamen to her service at her pleasure. Thus situated, it became no longer a matter of choice with this country, whether to remain at peace or not; war sooner or later was inevitable; the difficulty was in the choice of the enemy, or whether to contend with both.

From Britain we had experienced great provocation. This haughty power seemed to harbor a dislike to us, for having so bravely declared and maintained our independence. Her conduct towards us was uniformly disrespectful and contemptuous. She had called us rebels, she still considered us but as successful rebels, whose destitution of principle must, in the end, cause to fall together by the ears,

and thus make room for the restoration of their expelled sovereign. Little did she know of the real spirit of American liberty. Her first transactions with us, were marked by faithlessness. The settling down of this mighty republic, into that sober order and beautiful symetry which at present it possesses, appeared to her a state of anarchy. The conditions of the treaty of 1783, were shamefully slighted; nay, more, although at peace, she smote us with a concealed hand; she instigated a dreadful Indian war, in which thousands of American citizens were barbarously murdered. It will be long before the people of the western country can forget the defeats of Harmar and Sinclair, or the massacres of the frontier-settlers. If there existed any particular desire for war on the part of the Union, this is surely enough to account for it. When the Indian hostilities were at last happily terminated by the bravery and prudence of general Wayne, and a treaty of peace in 1794, concluded with England, it was thought that we might at last indulge the first wish of our hearts, and live at peace: but we were greatly mistaken. Our growing prosperity could not be seen by her without envy; as she was at war with France, the carrying trade fell into our hands, and greatly enriched our merchants. Britain resolved to put a stop to this, by renewing what is called the rule of '56, established by her at that pe-

riod, in order to embarrass the French commerce. It was founded ostensibly upon the idea, that neutrals ought not to alleviate the sufferings of war to a belligerent, by keeping up an intercourse between its different ports or colonies ; but it was, in reality, the result of a flagrant usurpation of the sovereignty of the seas. It was followed up by orders of council, which restricted the American commerce, and exposed many of our ships to capture and condemnation. Britain, not satisfied with these violations of the sacred laws of nations, established a new rule of blockade, but which she affected to consider as merely retaliatory : this was, placing her enemy's ports in a state of blockade by mere proclamation, and without stationing any efficient force. Under these, and many other pretexts, the American flag could only be said to float on the ocean at her will and pleasure.

There was another grievance which she practised upon us, even more insupportable than those enumerated. Very soon after our commercial enterprise began to spread its wings, it was found that our seamen were exposed to be taken on the high seas, from underneath the flag of their country, and dragged on board the British men of war, where they were compelled to serve for years. No Algerine servitude could be worse than this. The abuse was very soon so severely felt, as to become a cause

of indignant remonstrance on the part of President Washington, and afterwards of every successive statesman, to whom was entrusted the safety of the commonwealth. The British alleged in excuse, (for it was nothing more,) the difficulty of distinguishing between her subjects, and the citizens of this country. It appeared, however, that very little care was taken on her part to avoid the abuses which must necessarily result; for this investigation was usually entrusted to a petty officer, who was either not disposed, or incapable of proceeding fairly to work; and people of every color, and of every nation, were equally liable to be impressed, or more properly speaking, kidnapped. This distressing outrage, was the constant theme of complaint on the part of the American government; but instead of redress, we had the mortification of seeing it augmented. American ships on the high seas, were sometimes left without a sufficient number of men to navigate them, exposing the lives of the remainder, and ruining the voyage. Indignities not to be borne, were heaped upon our unfortunate countrymen; the certificates of their nativity, with which they had provided themselves, (a kind of humiliation to which no other people had ever been exposed,) was taken from them, torn in pieces, and scattered to the winds. To so great an extent had this violation of all human rights been carried, that it was estimated,

that in the year 1810, there were not less than seven thousand American seamen, who had been dragged on board the British ships of war, serving against their will, and consequently in a barbarous state of slavery. All this was heightened by the unparalleled insolence of the British naval commanders in our waters. The patience of the people of this country was almost exhausted, when the climax of insult was offered in the attack on the Chesapeake, where five American citizens were taken from on board a national vessel, after attacking the vessel in the most unexpected manner. Finding at last, that war would be the inevitable consequence of this wanton act, they humbled themselves so far as to offer a reparation, which was made in an ample manner, in the return of the seamen to the deck of their ship; but this was not done promptly and magnanimously, but came late, and was ungracious in its circumstances. The officer, moreover, who perpetrated the deed, was honoured and rewarded, instead of being hanged.

This storm only blew over that another might be fomented. The United States were, at this epoch, the only neutral in the christian world; all other nations were involved in war. France, mistress of the land, and England of the sea. The former, like an imprisoned robber, threw out idle threats from his gratings, that unless neutrals, (meaning the

United States) would cease their commerce with England, he would come forth, (where he could not even stir out to gasp a mouthful of fresh air) and deprive them of their goods. England, in want of a pretence, cries out, "sir, if you offer to rob this poor honest man, I must retaliate, and rob him myself." Without waiting to see whether the prisoner could get out to execute his threats, she begins the work of pillaging at once. It is very evident, that things had come to such a pitch, that both of these nations were in the habit of exercising all the privileges of war towards us, as far as lay in their power, while we were pursuing our policy of peace.

What could we now do? The first and most simple idea which suggested itself, was to stay at home, where we could be more safe than in stirring abroad, exposed to be assailed by a tyger or a lion, watching for his prey. An embargo was laid; but the experiment of some months, proved, that from the great extent of our sea coasts, and the small extent of our patriotism, it could not be enforced. It was, therefore, taken off; and in place of it, a law was passed, forbidding all intercourse with France and England. By this means, we were still enabled to carry on some trade with Spain, the West-Indies, and the nations round the Baltic. But we were not long in discovering, that an escape from war was inevitable. Our national character had sunk abroad,

and appeared to be sinking at home : and what man, or society of men, ever prospered, with infamy attached to their reputations ? The American was ashamed to own his country while abroad. Throughout the whole nation, the opinion was fast gaining ground, that we must have war. But against which of the belligerents should it be waged ? This was the question. We had abundant cause for complaint against both. The vast fleet of England would sweep our little navy from the ocean, and would lay our flourishing cities in ashes. With respect to France, a war would be a mere flourish, for we could neither meet their forces by land or sea, unless we chose to thrust ourselves into the tyger's den. The course adopted by the administration, was perhaps, upon the whole, the wisest : that was, to leave it to the choice of the belligerents themselves. The ports of the United States were therefore closed against both, but would be opened to that one, which would first rescind his obnoxious decrees or orders in council, and then would come the question of peace or war. To these fair and equitable terms England acceded ; the French minister formally and solemnly declared to our government, that the Berlin and Milan decrees were repealed : on this being made known to the Prince Regent and the English cabinet, they shuffled and quibbled, and affected to regard the evidence of the repeal on the

part of the French, insufficient. It was in vain, to say that we, the only persons really affected or exposed to injury by their existence, were satisfied: they could not be repealed.

It now became as clear as the light, that nothing fair, candid or honorable, was to be looked for by us from England. She basely persisted in the most iniquitous scheme of plunder and oppression, and declined, under every species of subterfuge, the numerous proffers of the American government, to remedy the evils of impressment.

These were not the only causes of irritation against Great Britain. Besides coming in contact with her on the sea, where she harrassed our commerce, and kidnapped our fellow citizens, we also came in collision on the land. Our situation with France was materially different, we might shun her if we chose; but not so with England, for if we withdrew from the ocean, she could still harrass us in consequence of our vicinity. From the influence of the fur companies of the north west, all the Indian nations in that quarter were at their disposal, not excepting the nations which resided within the territorial limits of the United States. This influence was liable to abuse, and in fact was continually abused; the poor deluded creatures, were wrought upon by presents, and artful tales, to become inimical to the Americans. An Indian chief, of uncom-



mon ability, had at this time acquired the ascendancy over all the scattered tribes along the lakes, and in the waters of the Ohio. He had been a fierce enemy of the whites, since the first settlement of the country, and was one of the most noted warriors that had appeared. The name of this savage was Tecumseh, who was aided by an artful Indian, a kind of high priest, or juggler, called the Prophet, his brother. The one appealing to superstitious fears, the other commanding respect, and exciting awe, were soon found to be useful tools in the hands of the British.

There is no nation on earth, which possesses less of the thirst for conquest or dominion, than this confederacy of states. Possessing already, by the purchase of Louisiana, a vast accession of territory, which will require ages to fill, to what end would be the mere desire of conquest? Such an ambition, unconnected with some lawful object, can scarcely find its way into the American government. But was it not natural, that there should prevail a wish to secure ourselves from the continual recurrence of Indian warfare? And how do it but by assailing the very root of the evil. Hence, the prevailing wish through the United States of conquering Canada; not from any benefit or advantage which the people or the government might derive; perchance that benefit or advantage, might be to the human race. But

could we possess Canada, war would be only known on the ocean and the coast. Nations, if possible, ought not to have too near neighbors, if they wish to remain at peace.

In the autumn of eighteen hundred and eleven, serious differences arose between us and the Indians on the Wabash; the ostensible cause of which, was a purchase made by governor Harrison, of a large tract of land in the Indiana territory, from the Indians. At a treaty near Vincennes, Tecumseh behaved in the most insolent manner, and openly threatened to dig up the tomahawk from under the tree of peace. The hostile deportment of the Indians, soon after induced the governor to call to his aid the 4th regiment of United States' infantry, under colonel Boyd, and a body of volunteer militia from Kentucky, besides a small body of militia of Indiana. With these, he proceeded up the Wabash, with the intention of building a Fort near the Prophet's town, near a branch of the Wabash, called Tippecanoe, since become famous. On his arrival, he was met by the Prophet, Winimac, and some other chiefs, who professed to be peaceably disposed, requested him to encamp for the day, and promised to come the next morning and hold a council of peace. With this request, the governor complied, unsuspecting of their treachery. Towards morning, the Indians, led on by Winimac, suddenly assailed

the camp, having killed the sentinels with arrows. They were received with great resolution, but were not repulsed until after a bloody conflict of two hours, in which the Americans lost upwards of one hundred and eighty in killed and wounded, among whom were many valuable officers. Colonel Davies, one of the first men in Kentucky, or perhaps in this country, was among the slain. Colonel Boyd, and the 4th, acquired much honor. The loss of the Indians was estimated at one hundred and fifty. These misguided people soon after sued for peace, which was granted. But through the instigation of the British, the Prophet and Tecumseh soon after renewed hostilities, by murdering families on the frontiers. The war which was about to break forth in this quarter, soon after merged into more important events, and which it is the business of this presented narrative to detail.

## CHAPTER II.

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### *Declaration of War—State of the Country.*

The twelfth congress continued in session long beyond the usual time of adjournment, in consequence of the crisis which was thought to be approaching. On the fifth of June, president Madison laid before congress, the correspondence of our charge d'affair in London, with the British government, which put an end to all hope of the repeal of the orders in council. Every attempt to arrange the matter of impressment had also failed. In the opinion of the president, there appeared to be no possible measure left for us to pursue, but a declaration of war.

This being referred to the committee of foreign relations, they drew up an able report, in which a full view was taken of all our causes of complaint against Great Britain, and they concurred fully in the opinion of the president, that nothing was left to us but an appeal to arms.

They said, that the British cruizers were in the continual habit of violating the American flag, and seizing and carrying away, without distinction, all persons sailing under it.

That they had been in the practice of harrassing the entering and departing commerce on our coast, and violating the sanctuary of our harbors.

That they were aiming to lay waste our neutral trade, and entirely destroy our commerce, that they might supplant us.

That they plundered our vessels on the high seas, under a pretence of blockades, and that by the sweeping system of orders in council, our commerce, unless through the special license of Great Britain, was at an end.

That a secret agent had been employed to sow dissention between the states, and if possible, bring about a separation.

That the war renewed on the frontiers with the savages, was without a doubt instigated by the British.

That in fine, on the side of Great Britain, there was a state of war towards the United States, and on the side of the United States, a state of peace towards Great Britain.

After sitting several days with closed doors, the important appeal was announced on the eighteenth

of June, and the next day war was formally proclaimed.

For thirty years our favored and happy country, had smiled beneath the blessings of peace and prosperity. With the exception, indeed, of the distant Algerine war, and the occasional hostilities on the remote frontier. It was our first national war since the declaration of independence, and with the nation from whom our independence had been won. We considered the appeal to arms inevitable; we confided to the justice of our cause, and trusted to heaven for the issue.

The means provided for carrying on a contest with one of the most powerful nations on the globe, were extremely slender. Our army did not exceed five thousand men, and these distributed over a surface of several thousand miles. A law had been passed for the purpose of enlarging it to twenty-five thousand men; but little or no progress had been made in enlistment. Our navy consisted of a few frigates, and smaller vessels of war, not more than thirty in number; while that of the enemy, exceeded a thousand ships. Our great commercial towns were not yet completely fortified, although for some years, considerable pains had been taken to fortify them. We had no overflowing treasury, to furnish the abundant means of creating the necessary force

and supplies; the American people had been burthened with no taxes.

Great Britain had laughed at the idea of our going to war; our confederation, which she called a rope of sand, in her opinion, would crumble at the sound of the war trumpet. Our navy was the standing butt of her ridicule, and our "fur built frigates," the subjects of her continued jests; "the bits of striped bunting," as she called our glorious flag, now resplendent with the stars of freedom, would soon disappear from the ocean. But Providence has decreed, that the keenest disappointments shall ever attend the boastful and vain glorious.

The Americans looked to Canada as the vulnerable part of Great Britain. Whatever intrinsic value this province might be to her, pride at least, would render it an object worth contending for. To us, it could be only of advantage as the means of compelling her to a speedy peace, and securing our frontiers against the murderous Indian. Far from being actuated by the mere ambition of conquest, had Canada been emancipated by England, all wish on our part of possessing it, would at once have been at an end.

We were already at war with the north western Indians, such troops as we could spare had been ordered to the frontier, with the double view of putting an end to those hostilities, and to be in the best situ-

ation for striking a blow at Canada. It was well known, that there were no great preparations on the part of the British; and it was natural to suppose, that by a prompt and vigorous attack on the unprotected provinces, we should be master of the whole country, from Niagara upwards. This would effectually cut off all hope of aid to the British, from the Indians, and would enable us to concentrate our forces on Lake Ontario, by which means, with the aid of the regular troops in that quarter, and the militia of New-York, Pennsylvania and Vermont, Upper Canada would fall in the course of a few months, and in the spring we might successfully advance against Quebec.



## CHAPTER III.

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*Invasion of Canada by gen. Hull—Battles of Brownstown and Maguaga—Hull evacuates Canada—British invasion and surrender of Hull.*

HULL, the governor of the Michigan territory, who had been a distinguished officer during the revolutionary war, having been appointed a brigadier in the service of the United States, was on his march to Detroit, the capital of the territory, at the moment of the declaration of war. His force consisted of about two thousand men, nearly one half regulars, the remainder, volunteers from the state of Ohio, and well supplied with the necessary munitions of war. On reaching the rapids of the Miami, he freighted a schooner, with the principal part of his baggage, that his march might be lightened : but to his astonishment, the capture of the vessel which soon after followed, gave him the first intimation of the existing state of hostilities, and it was not until shortly before he reached Detroit, that he received

the official intelligence of the formal declaration. The British, in consequence of their settlements along the lake, and the employment of swift couriers, had been able to convey the information several days before it reached the American posts. From the nature of our government, there is no possibility of knowing, with certainty, the exact time of our making war, until its actual declaration : the British had, therefore, almost as early intelligence of it as our executive. It is also said, that the American messenger, was somewhat detained by an unforeseen accident.

The arrival of Hull, was little more than in time to save Detroit, which the British were on the point of attacking. A few well directed shot, compelled them to abandon the works which they had erected on the opposite side of the river. Hull, who had received discretionary power to act offensively, resolved to possess himself of the British post on the opposite side of the river, by which means, he would at once end the Indian war, and cut off the communication with the north-west establishments, and the lower provinces. The American garrisons and forts on the Wabash, Mississippi, lakes, &c. would, in such event, be completely protected. By obtaining a firm footing in this country, another object would be also secured ; the inhabitants, chiefly emigrants from the United States, would be induced to

join the American standard, and facilitate the active conquest of the country.

On the twelfth of July, Hull, with the principal part of his forces, crossed the river, and after a feeble opposition, took possession of Sandwich. Here he issued a proclamation, in which he stated his force to be sufficient to "look down all opposition," threatening destruction, without mercy, to all who should be fighting by the side of an Indian, and offering protection to the inhabitants who would join his standard. But this proclamation was followed up by no prompt and vigorous measures against the British garrison, which at this time was in condition to resist a vigorous assault. He contented himself with detaching colonels Cass and M'Arthur, to take possession of the country along the river Thames, and loitered away his time in useless skirmishings. A sharp skirmish took place a few days after the landing, at the river Aux Canards, with a party of the enemy stationed to guard the bridge, which crossed the river on the road to Malden. The enemy was compelled to retire, with the loss of eleven killed and wounded; but the passage appeared to be gained, with no other view than being immediately abandoned.

Hull now concluded, that Malden could not be taken without heavy artillery, and a regular siege, and in consequence, sat about making preparations.

which ought to have preceded the invasion. While his proclamation was figuring away in the United States, and every day was expected to bring the news of the taking of Malden, and the vast advantages which would necessarily follow; this general was fast losing the confidence of his own troops, by his want of decision, and incapacity for command. It appeared that he had either become superannuated, or that his merit in a subordinate station, during the revolution, was no just criterion of his talents as a leader. The British officer, general Brock, who was a man of talents, was not long in discovering the kind of adversary he had to deal with, and from being at first apprehensive that he could not withstand the great superiority of the American force, began to conceive hope of being able to take advantage of the incapacity of the American. He threw light parties of regulars and Indians, under the celebrated chief Tecumseh, on the road between the state of Ohio and Detroit, so as to intercept the American supplies. Hull was compelled to turn his attention to keeping open the communication, while the preparations for the siege of Malden advanced at a snail's pace. It was not until the first of August, that two twenty-four pounders and three howitzers were mounted, and even then, he appeared at a loss what to do with them. Dangers and difficulties appeared every moment to thicken around him.

On the twenty-third of July, he received intelligence that Michilimackinac had surrendered to the British. Lieutenant Hanks, who commanded this important fortress, was suddenly encompassed by a body of the enemy, and a great number of Indians, which to him was the first intimation of hostilities. As it was in vain to contend against so great a superiority of force, he was compelled to capitulate. There being nothing now to keep the Indians in check, and the men in the service of the north western fur company being collected, a considerable reinforcement might be expected by the British general. Hull, alarmed at this danger of his situation, which was greatly augmented by his fears, dispatched a messenger for assistance to the governor of Ohio, and to general Hull, commanding at Niagara. The astonishment excited by this news was universal; the morning which had been so fair in hope, was thus suddenly obscured with lowering darkness.

To a man of mental resource, the situation was not yet desperate. The force of Hull was vastly superior to that of the British; his heavy cannon was at last prepared, and mounted on floating batteries; and the American officers and soldiers, indulged the expectation of soon attempting something, to merit the applause of their country. The day was actually fixed for the meditated attack, but to the inex-

pressible astonishment and universal indignation of the Americans, orders were given by this wretched commander, to abandon the British side and retreat to Detroit. At once every hope of renown was dashed from them, and they had before their eyes, the hateful prospect of becoming the scorn of their country, and the ridicule of its enemies. The British general was, at the same time, fully confirmed in the opinion, which he had of the American commander. Hull, in his disgraceful retreat, abandoned to the mercy of the British, the deluded inhabitants who had confided in his pompous offers of protection, and effectually prevented any future co-operation on the part of the Canadians, who otherwise might have been induced to join the United States, and assert their independence.

Shortly before this, a party had reached the river Raisin, with additional supplies for the American camp, under captain Bush ; but in consequence of the road being infested by Indians, were obliged to halt, and wait until escorted by a sufficient force. A detachment of one hundred and fifty men, was dispatched under major Vanhorn, who was attacked near Brownstown, by a superior force of the enemy, and after a severe contest was compelled to retreat, with the loss of nineteen killed and wounded ; of the former, captain Gilcrease, M'Culloch and Bostler ; of the latter, captain Ulry.

On the return of this party, it was deemed an object of serious consequence to make an effort to clear the road. While the enemy, well knowing that another attempt would soon be made, posted a much larger force of regulars and Indians, at a place called Maguaga, in advance of the former scene of action. For this service, which had now become of the first importance, the American general selected the veteran colonel Miller, with three hundred regulars of the 4th regiment, and about two hundred militia. On the ninth of August, the day after Hull had evacuated the British territory, the gallant Miller, although advancing with great caution, was attacked by the enemy from an ambuscade. His advance guard, under captain Snelling, was suddenly encompassed on all sides by Indians and British; but he kept them off, until succoured by the main body. An animated action took place; after keeping up a warm fire for some time, colonel Miller ordered a charge upon the British regulars, who fought under cover of a breast-work of logs and trees. They were immediately routed; but the Indians under Tecumseh, in the woods on each side, maintained the contest for some time longer. The enemy was finally compelled to retire, and were driven to their boats, in which they precipitately embarked. The American loss in this affair, was fifteen killed and fifty wounded; that of the British

was about the same. The American force was so much fatigued by this action, which lasted three hours, that they halted on the ground, and the next day received orders from Hull to return to Detroit. It had been resolved to open a communication with captain Bush, through the woods, and for this purpose colonels Cass and Miller were detached, with a strong detachment of four hundred men.

By this time, the British general had resolved upon the bold attempt of invading the American side, and attacking Hull. He took a position opposite Detroit, and on the fifteenth, sent over a flag, demanding in form, the surrender of the American garrison; in which he magnified his force, in regulars and Indians, in the most frightful manner. Hull, however, returned for answer, that the place would be defended to the last extremity.

The next day, the enemy was discovered crossing the river for the purpose of attacking the fort. Hull, the evening before, had sent to recall, by forced marches, the detachment under Miller and Cass. No preparations were made by him, to oppose the landing of the British troops; but the Americans were so disposed behind the picketing and fences of the village, and in the fort, as to annoy his advance. On an eminence, two twenty-four pounders, charged with grape, were posted in a situation to sweep the advancing columns of the invader; add to this,



the detachment out on duty, might be expected to arrive in time to partake in the action, and assail the enemy in the rear. At ten o'clock, the British force, about seven hundred strong, and some skulking Indians, were seen to advance in the direction in which they would meet certain destruction; when suddenly, and without the slightest cause, the American commander gave orders for the troops to abandon their positions, and betake themselves to the fort, while the officers commanding the heavy artillery, were enjoined not to fire. In the midst of this strange suspense, the British still continued slowly and cautiously to advance. The American general seemed to have lost all presence of mind, and to have been under the influence of the most unaccountable panic. He filled his mouth with tobacco until it could hold no more, and then daubed his face with the saliva, until he might almost have been mistaken for an Indian. In this state of mind, he ordered a white flag to be suspended from the fort, in token of submission. A British officer who rode up to ascertain the cause, could hardly believe it, until the capitulation was made. The astonishment and mortification of the Americans, at being thus surrendered, can only be imagined, and was only equalled by the grief which overspread their country when it came to be made known.

The British were put in possession of the whole of the province, with all the public stores and arms, among which were several trophies of the revolution. The American troops remained prisoners of war, and were conveyed to Montreal and fort George. The American general was afterwards tried, and condemned to suffer death ; but in consequence of his advanced years, and his revolutionary services, he was pardoned.

The consequences of this affair were of the most serious kind. Nearly twenty millions of dollars were expended, before we were enabled to regain our lost possessions ; and it frustrated all our ulterior plans. The bloody contest, in which so many of our brave countrymen afterwards perished, from Niagara upwards, was entirely the result of this one man's cowardice. One false step in the beginning, often requires twenty to retrieve the misfortunes which follow.

## CHAPTER IV.

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### *Naval Affairs—Capture of the Guerriere—Naval Victories.*

No sooner was the war declared, than our little navy, in gallant trim, issued in separate ships, or small squadrons, from the different ports; and a hundred privateers soon after darted upon the foe. The national chagrin had scarcely worn off, when the general attention was directed towards the ocean. It was not long before the trident was torn from the grasp of Britain, and the red cross laid at the feet of victorious America.

Commodore Rodgers put to sea in June, and steered in pursuit of the West-India convoy. While thus engaged, he gave chase to the *Belvidera*, a British frigate, leaving his squadron in the rear. But the enemy being a faster sailor, and having other advantages, effected her escape, though not without loss. The commodore received a severe wound, and had nineteen of his men killed by the bursting

of a gun. The squadron then crossed the Atlantic, and after a cruize of three months, by which the return of the American commerce was much facilitated, arrived at Boston with several prizes.

The Essex and other national vessels sailed about the same time. The Constitution, captain Hull, was chased for two days, but through consummate seamanship of this commander, she escaped.

These events prepared the public for something of a splendid character, but the occurrence which soon after took place, far transcended our most sanguine hopes. In the skill and gallantry of our naval commanders, the nation reposed the highest confidence; but they had not yet been matched with the boasted lords of the seas. The British look to victory with the confidence of a people habituated to conquer. They seemed to have no other wish than to prevail on the Americans to meet them. Better for them that meeting had never taken place. The Guerriere, one of the finest frigates that ever descended upon the ocean, vauntingly displayed her pendant with a variety of insulting mottos before the American harbors. Her commodore began to fear that no foe could be found sufficiently bold to encounter him. On the memorable nineteenth of September, the Constitution hove in sight; with satisfaction the Briton beheld her bearing down, and backed his topsails to wait her approach. For

some time they tried each other's skill in naval manœuvring; but the *Guerriere*, finding that nothing was to be gained in this way, poured out her broadsides. Great was her wonder to find them not returned. Perhaps the Yankies were panic struck, or were not acquainted with the use of their guns. Several of Hull's brave fellows had fallen, still the enemy's fire was not returned. The souls of the American crew were fire; still they patiently waited the orders of their commander. That moment, pregnant with so much glory to themselves and to their country, came at last. Sailing-master Aylwin had admirably seconded the views of the commander, and orders were given to fire, broadside after broadside, in quick succession. The work was done as if by the thunderbolts of Jove. In fifteen minutes, the proud frigate was a wreck; in fifteen more, her flag came down, and the vessel was on the point of sinking. "*Free trade and sailor's rights,*" triumphed over the tyrants of the seas.

Great was the disproportion between the killed and the wounded of the adverse frigates. The *Guerriere* had fifteen killed and sixty wounded; the *Constitution*, seven killed and seven wounded. One hour after, the American would have been ready to try the fortune of arms with another Englishman. The deportment of the Americans to their prisoners, was the most generous and humane.

The prize was burnt and blown up, it being utterly impossible to bring her in. After making a few captures, the *Constitution* returned on the twenty-second of September.

The news of this glorious affair, spread on the wings of the wind, over the surface of our country. Full, indeed, was our recompense for past misfortunes. All the circumstances of this unparalleled combat were of the most pleasing kind. As some reward for this signal service to his country, Hull was presented with the freedom of all the cities through which he passed on his way to the seat of government, and on the meeting of Congress, a liberal allowance was made to himself and his crew, in consequence of his inability to bring the enemy's ship into port.

From this time to the close of the war, the American newspapers were filled with accounts of naval exploits, performed both in private and public armed vessels. Captain Porter, in the *Essex*, in a daring manner cut out a brig from a convoy, and found on board fourteen thousand dollars in specie, and one hundred and fifty soldiers. He afterwards captured the *Alert*, (which was in search of the *Hornet*,) and was on the point of engaging a frigate, when he was separated by the approach of night, but in the morning she had disappeared.

The President sailed again in October, and captured the British packet *Swallow*, with two hundred thousand dollars on board. The *Argus*, which parted from the squadron, was also fortunate. She captured several valuable prizes, and after various narrow escapes, arrived at last in safety at New-York.

The gallant commodore Decatur, in the frigate *United States*, added another laurel to those which already graced his brow. On the twenty-fifth of October, he fell in with the *Macedonian*, captain Carden, a British frigate of the largest class. The engagement lasted two hours, in consequence of the roughness of the seas. The fire of the American was so remarkable, that the enemy at one moment, thought her on fire. Lieutenants Funk and Allen, were highly distinguished in this affair; the former unhappily received a mortal wound. The commodore safely reached New-York with his prize, and was received with the applause of his country.

The national illuminations had scarcely been extinguished, and the sound of rejoicing ceased, when another naval victory was announced, won after a short, but to the enemy a most sanguinary conflict, which served to place the American naval superiority beyond all doubt. Captain Jones, of the *Wasp*, a sloop of war, fell in with the *Frolic*, twenty-two captain Whinyates. The superiority was somewhat

on the side of the Briton. At first the chances appeared in his favor; the rigging of the Wasp had suffered in a gale the day before, and the roughness of the water prevented the Americans from bringing their guns to bear with their usual effect. The engagement lasted nearly an hour; the vessels gradually nearing each other, until the rammers touched their sides. The Frolic was at length taken by boarding. In forty minutes after they came to close quarters, the Americans were in possession of the Frolic. Her decks exhibited a most shocking spectacle; her rigging had been completely cut up, and both decks were strewed with the dead and wounded. The Americans, on this occasion, displayed their characteristic humanity. The loss on board the Frolic, was thirty killed and fifty wounded; that of the Wasp was only five killed and five wounded. Both these vessels were some days afterwards captured by the Poictiers, seventy-four, captain Beresford.

Never was any war so wonderfully successful, as that waged against the Goliahs of the ocean. The first year of the war was a continued series of naval victories. In a few months, the enemy lost upwards of two hundred and fifty merchant vessels, two of her frigates, and several smaller public vessels, while they had nothing to place in the opposite scale. In Great Britain, these marvellous deeds, at first



disbelieved, soon produced a deep chagrin, and even dismay. The main pillar of her strength was torn away. Unwilling to acknowledge the superiority of the new enemy, she sought to deceive herself by idle estimates of the comparative force, and by the invention of fancied mishaps; had we lived in an age of superstition, it would all have been attributed to magic. Her evasions reminded us of the grimace and ingenious paradox of the knight of the rueful countenance.

On the Lakes, those vast interior seas, whose borders are destined to become the joyful residence of millions of our fellow creatures, there appeared to be an approaching naval struggle. The first naval occurrence of any importance, terminated most happy for this country. The *Caledonia*, and the brig *Adams*, loaded with furs, had come down the lake early in October, and anchored under the guns of the British fort. Lieutenant Elliot, of the navy, who had some short time before arrived with a number of our brave tars, in order to provide a naval force, early in the morning slipped down with some of his gallant fellows, boarded and carried the two vessels. In ten minutes afterwards, he was under way, but the *Adams* unfortunately ran aground before he could secure her; the other, however, was safely brought off, and was found to have on board, two hundred thousand dollars worth of furs.

## CHAPTER V

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*Battle of Queenstown—General Smyth assumes the command—Colonel Pike's incursion.*

DURING the summer and autumn, a considerable force was collected along the Niagara, consisting of regulars and militia, occupying the best position for following up the blow to be struck by Hull. The spirit of the nation had recovered from the mortifying occurrence already detailed, while the success of our navy had awakened in the breast of every American, an ardent wish to restore the honor of the country. An incident which occurred in this quarter, kindled this ardor to its utmost height; this was, the capture of the British vessels on the lake, which we have related in the last chapter. The American forces now commanded by general Van Rensselaer, besought him to lead them against the enemy. Unwilling to damp their ardor, and at the same time flattering himself with the hope of being able to seize the opposite shore, and by that means

intercept the communication of the enemy above, as well as with the lower provinces, materially assist the forces of the west about to rally and expel the invaders of our territory.

Accordingly, on the twelfth of October, the corps composing the van of the invading army, consisting of three hundred men, under colonel Van Rensselaer and colonel Christie, with about the same number of regulars, a detachment of infantry under major Mulany, and the artillery of col. Fenwick, made good their landing in the face of the enemy's batteries, and rapidly storming the heights, possessed themselves completely of the Canada shore. The troops of Buffalo and Lewistown, had been marched for the purpose of crossing over, when this could be effected, in order to secure what should be gained. Colonel Van Rensselaer was severely wounded, almost as soon as he had landed; but with undaunted firmness, he still continued to give orders. About the time of crossing, they were joined by colonel Scott, who had made a rapid march with his artillery, in order to share the honors of the day. The British were driven in all directions, but soon after returned, with large reinforcements of regulars and Indians, led by general Brock in person, nearly three times the numbers of the Americans. This additional force was fiercely withstood, and compelled to retire with disgrace. The British gene-

ral, mortified at the conduct of his troops, led them a second time to the charge; but while in the act of urging them on, he fell, mortally wounded; and they once more gave way. It was now four o'clock, three times had the foe been routed; all that was requisite to complete the business of the day, was for the volunteers on the opposite shore to cross over, and reap the laurels which had been won. The general crossed over for this purpose, but what pen can describe the vexation which filled his heart, when he found that they had *constitutional* objections to crossing the straight! no persuasions could prevail on them. Alas! alas! how unaccountable are the actions of men. On one page of this affair, Americans will dwell with delight, from the next they will turn with disgust. The regulars and volunteers on the Canada side, waited in vain for the aid of their comrades. The clouds of war were once more gathering around them. The enemy returned to the combat, goaded by shame, by rage, and by the hope of subduing numbers so inferior. For an hour, the fight raged with unexampled fury; a few of the Americans attempted a retreat to their own shore, but the greater part were at last compelled to yield to overflowing numbers.

A number of American officers were highly distinguished. General Wadsworth, of the volunteers, colonels Van Rensselaer, Christie and Scott, were

much applauded; as also captains Wool, Gibson, Ogilvie, Armstrong, and many others. About sixty were killed, one hundred wounded, and about a thousand taken prisoners. The British forty-ninth, called the "Invincibles," formed a part of their force. The loss of the enemy was very considerable in killed and wounded.

On the fall of general Brock, general Sheaffe succeeded to the command. In many things he was wanting, in the regard to the duties of humanity, which might have been expected from a generous enemy. He imposed no restraint upon the savages, who were permitted to practice their horrid treatment to the dead and wounded. During the funeral of general Brock, minute guns were fired from the American fort, as a testimony of respect for the character of a brave enemy.

It was a most unfortunate circumstance, that the Americans failed in their attempt on the Canada shore. It became afterwards the glorious theatre of American valor; but had we obtained possession, the troops would have been well housed for the winter, and the spring campaign would have opened with results very different from those which followed.

In the course of this party coloured day, a cannonade was kept up from the forts and batteries on the opposite sides of the water. Considerable exe-

cution was done by the Americans, with comparatively trifling injury by the enemy.

The command of this force was soon after resigned to general Smyth, of the United States' army, an officer who stood high as a tactitian, but who had not shown himself in the field. Desirous of contrasting his talents with those of his predecessor, he set about making preparations for a more successful invasion of the Canada shore, before the close of the season, although it was now far advanced. On examining the ground, he fancied that the failure of the former attempt was to be attributed to the injudicious selection of the place of landing. He first issued a proclamation, calling on volunteers from all quarters; and on the seventeenth of November, announced to the army of the centre, his intention of crossing into Canada. It was not, however, until the twenty-eighth of November, that all things were prepared for the intended enterprize. Two detachments, one under colonel Winder, and the other under colonel Boestler, were to cross before day, to seize the batteries, and keep them until the main body should pass the river. At three o'clock they got under weigh, in ten boats, but on approaching the shore, they found the enemy apprised, and actually opened a fire the whole length of their batteries. The greater part of the invading force was compelled to put back, having been carried down by

the current, which is here exceedingly rapid. Two small detachments alone effected a landing, one under colonel Boestler, the other under captain King, at distant points from each other; but making a bold assault, and at the same time raising a shout, the British were induced to believe that the intermediate space was occupied by the whole American army, and fled precipitately from their posts, leaving all the batteries undefended. The boats which returned to the American side, by their report produced a suspense in the mind of the general, in consequence of his ignorance of the fate of the handful of men who had effected their landing. Two thousand men, who were embarked, waited impatiently for orders to move, but the commander still hesitated what to do. An equal number paraded on the shore, in readiness to proceed as a reserve. In the mean time day began to dawn, and the enemy having rallied his force, was greatly astonished to find the invading force scarcely exceeded thirty men, who were made prisoners of war. The British force thus collected, were less than five hundred men, but concealing themselves in the woods, and winding their bugles lustily, induced a belief that their numbers were very great. General Smyth concluded, that any further prosecution of this invasion would be useless, therefore announced its abandonment, greatly to the dissatisfaction of his troops,

who were, on this occasion, earnestly desirous of wiping away the stain of the former disgrace. It was with difficulty that he could calm their minds by declaring his intention of making a more effectual attempt.

On the Tuesday following, the troops were actually embarked, and general Porter, who was to lead the van, anxiously waited the orders to proceed. Every thing promised success, as far as depended on the good conduct of the troops. Suddenly, to the astonishment of the whole army, orders were issued by the general, announcing his intention of renouncing the invasion for the season, and to retire into winter quarters. The discontent of the American volunteers, thus disappointed, was not confined to murmurs; many threatened the life of the general, who was compelled to place a guard near his person for his safety.

The general, after endeavouring to establish his courage and prudence, by challenging general Porter, of the New-York volunteers, thought proper to retire from the command. He withdrew to his seat in Virginia, where he was permitted to remain quietly during the war.

The forces collected on the St. Lawrence, with the exception of some slight skirmishes, did little worthy of being recorded. On the nineteenth of October, colonel Pike, a promising and rising officer, already



highly esteemed as an enterprising and chivalrous soldier, made an incursion into Canada, defeated a body of British and Indians, destroyed a block-house, and returned with only five men wounded.

## CHAPTER VI.

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### *Affairs of the West—Movements of Gen. Harrison.*

WE return to the affairs of the west, after the melancholy surrender of Hull. Nearer the scene of action, the western states were more deeply chagrined, than other parts of the union. Many of their citizens had been compelled to share in the burthen of the heavy disgrace. In the re-action of the public feelings, an enthusiastic spirit was enkindled, and the desire of regaining the conquered territory, and of avenging the insult, universally prevailed. At Louisville, and Newport, large bodies of volunteers were continually collecting; in the state of Ohio, at several points, a similar alacrity had collected large bodies of private citizens, who had suddenly taken up arms. Indeed, the numbers flocking to the places of rendezvous, rendered it necessary that orders should be issued to prevent the assemblage of troops, so far exceeding

the necessities of the occasion ; whole companies were dismissed as supernumerary.

General Harrison, the most popular military man to the westward, was called to the command of the volunteers, and such of regulars as had been collected. This took place in September. His first step after organizing his force, and distributing it to the most important points, was to relieve the frontier posts, now in great danger, and to send detachments in various directions into the Indian country. One of these, fort Harrison, situated on the Wabash, had been in the mean time attacked by a large body of Indians in the night ; the situation of the besieged was at one moment desperate, in consequence of the wooden barracks within the picketing having been set on fire ; nothing but the admirable coolness of the commanding officer, captain Taylor, preserved the lives of the unfortunate soldiers from Indian massacre. For his good conduct, captain Taylor was promoted to a majority.

Several expeditions, on a respectable scale, were conducted by general Hopkins and Tupper, and by colonels Campbell and Russell. By these, all the forts were relieved, and the Indian villages laid in ashes, by which these relentless enemies were driven to the distant British trading establishments for subsistence, and gave security to the frontier settlers.

Having completed these military operations, general Harrison left fort Winchester, at which the principal force was stationed, in order to superintend the equipment and march of the volunteers, destined to replace those whose services had expired, and for the purpose of bringing up the forces destined in the spring to operate against the enemy at Detroit. General Winchester was left in command of about a thousand, chiefly volunteers from Kentucky, and consisting of young men of ardent and generous feeling. It was not long after the departure of general Harrison, before the arrival of a deputation from the village of Frenchtown, situated on the river Raisin, between the Miami and Detroit, soliciting the protection of their countrymen, from the Indians who had threatened to destroy them, and to prevent, if possible, the occupation of their village by the combined forces of the enemy, as was contemplated. The general, at the earnest solicitations of the volunteers, was prevailed upon to consent to their marching to the relief of the unfortunate people. Colonel Lewis, at the head of about five hundred men, the greater part Kentucky volunteers, with two companies of regulars, reached the Raisin on the eighteenth of January, eighteen hundred and thirteen, and finding the enemy strongly picketed, boldly crossed the river on the ice, and after a warm action, drove them in every direction.

Being master of the ground, he encamped within a line of pickets, which would contribute to render his position defensible, in case of an attack by a larger body.

General Harrison, about this time arriving at fort Winchester with some reinforcements, was much chagrined to find this deviation from his plan of operations. To remedy this false step as far as lay in his power, he dispatched general Winchester to take the command, at the head of an additional force of two hundred men. This increased the main body to seven hundred and fifty. The additional force encamped on the outside of the pickets before mentioned. At day-light on the twenty-second, this force was suddenly attacked by two thousand British and Indians; those on the outside of the pickets, were soon overpowered by numbers, and were all either killed, or fell into the hands of the ruthless savages. General Winchester and colonel Lewis, who happened to be with this body, were made prisoners about the same time. Those within the pickets, about five hundred in number, continued the resistance until near eleven o'clock, having repeatedly repelled the assailants in their attempt upon the stockade. Finding that their arms could make no impression on this band of heroes, the enemy resorted to the arts of persuasion; a flag was sent, promises of protection were held forth; they

expressly agreed to preserve to the officers their side arms; to all this were added the entreaties of general Winchester, who feared that these brave men would all be sacrificed to the fury of the savage enemy. They were at last prevailed upon to lay down their arms.

The historian would gladly cast the veil of oblivion over the scenes which now ensued. The savages soon commenced their deeds of horror; the dead were deprived of their clothing; many of the wounded tomahawked and robbed; the living were exposed to every species of contumely and torture. The conduct of the British commander, general Procter, has stamped his name with infamy that will last to remotest ages. Many of the prisoners were carried away by the Indians, some of them were burnt with horrible torments, and others retained in slavery, to be afterwards carried about like beasts, and sold in the streets of Detroit. The most tragical part of this shocking affair, was the burning upwards of sixty of the unhappy wounded, who had been left in the houses of the inhabitants; these houses were left without any guard of British regulars, and the day after the battle, a party of Indians returned and set fire to them. The fate of captain Hart, an accomplished young gentleman of Kentucky, was peculiarly distressing; col. Elliot, of the British army, who had been his classmate at

Princeton, voluntarily tendered him his protection, and promised to return with the means of conveyance to a place of safety, where his wound might be attended to. This he never did. Captain Hart prevailed on two Indians for a sum of money to take him to Detroit; they had proceeded with him but a short distance, when with the cruelty and fickleness of savages, they pulled him from his horse, and wreaked their vengeance upon the defenceless prisoner. Oh! Britain, what heart couldst thou have possessed, to have permitted a fellowship in thy wars with such bloody fiends! Two hundred of the dead were suffered to lie on the ground; no funeral rights were permitted to be paid them. Humanity must ever weep over this melancholy picture.

Among the slain, or barbarously murdered, were col. Allen, captains Hickman, Simpson, (a member of Congress,) Mead, Edwards, Price, M'Cracken, and many others of the choicest sons of Kentucky.

## CHAPTER VII.

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*Meeting of Congress—Proposed Armistice—Capture of the Java—Operations on the Lakes—Siege of Fort Meigs.*

SHORTLY after the commencement of the war, a proposition for a cessation of hostilities, was made by the governor of Canada, information having reached him of the repeal of the orders in council. This proposition being vague and informal, was at once rejected. It was followed by one more specific, on the part of admiral Warren, who came to take command of the station; he demanded as a preliminary to every other step, that the United States should throw down their arms, as having been the aggressors. This insolent demand was instantly refused. In fact, we had no confidence in the momentary repeal of the orders in council; nothing but a repeal of the wicked temper of the enemy could give us security. To prove, however, to the world, that we were not behind our enemy in a wish



to put an end to the horrors of war, the American charge d'affairs in London, was instructed to make formal proposals for settling all disputes on fair terms, and in the mean time, to agree to an armistice pending the negotiation. They were not received.

On the meeting of Congress, the aspect of affairs was such as to call for the most active and vigorous preparations for carrying on the war. A loan was authorized; an additional number of troops were to be enlisted; and all the necessary provisions for a serious conflict were made. The President called upon the national legislature, to meet the coming storm with firmness becoming the representatives of a free and magnanimous people.

Captain Chauncey, of the navy, was sent to lake Ontario, to organize a naval force. So rapid were his operations, that before winter set in, he had gained the ascendancy on the lake; had captured a British vessel, and driven their fleet to take shelter in the harbor of Kingston.

While Congress was engaged in these affairs, news arrived of a third victory obtained over a British frigate. On the twenty-ninth of December, at two o'clock, P. M. the Constitution, captain Bainbridge, fell in with and captured the British frigate Java, of fifty guns, and upwards of four hundred men, commanded by captain Lambert, a distin-

guished officer. The action lasted about one hour and an half, during which time the enemy was completely dismantled, and their commander mortally wounded. On board were general Hislop, destined to the command of Bombay, together with several other officers of distinction. The prize could not be brought in, having been reduced to a perfect wreck. The victor reached Boston in February, and received the same honors as were uniformly paid to our naval commanders.

The rejoicings for this happy occurrence were not a little damped by intelligence of the critical situation of general Harrison. This officer finding his force much weakened by the loss of numbers as well as of the aid and council of so many able officers and intelligent men, deemed it prudent to entrench himself near the Miami. He constructed hastily a stockade, which he called fort Meigs, in honor of the active and patriotic governor of Ohio, who had exerted himself in the most laudable manner to further the preparations on foot. His rude fortifications were still incomplete, when the enemy consisting of a combined force of British and Indians under general Proctor, made its appearance. The fort was manned with about a thousand men, chiefly volunteers, was closely invested by more than double the number. A fire was mutually kept up each day for some time, when a messenger in-

formed the American commander of the approach of twelve hundred men, under general Clay. A well planned sortie, in conjunction with the reinforcement, was resolved upon. Colonel Dudley, descending the Miami at the head of a detachment in pursuance of the preconcerted plan, suddenly landed on the left bank of the river, assailed the British batteries, and completely drove them the field; unfortunately, however, the impetuosity of his troops could not be checked; they persisted in pursuing the enemy, until they reached a wood, where they were suddenly surrounded, and the greater part cut to pieces or made prisoners. The colonel, who had endeavoured to make good his retreat to the boats, was slain in the struggle. On the opposite side, the sortie on the British works was completely successful. Colonel Miller, of the gallant fourth, who was chosen for this purpose, drove the besiegers from all their works. On that side also, the ungovernable, headlong daring of the Kentuckians, was near being ruinous to them; they were only saved by a vigorous charge of the horse, which covered their retreat. Among the distinguished officers of the day, we find the names of major Alexander, captains Croghan, Bradford, Nearing, Sabrie, and lieutenants Campbell and Gwynn.

This put an end to the siege of fort Meigs. During the siege, which lasted thirteen days, the Ame

ricans lost eighty killed and one hundred and fifty wounded, besides those who fell a sacrifice to the fury of the savages under Dudley. Had the enemy been successful, the most disastrous consequences would have followed. The whole frontier was thus placed in a state of security, from the murderous incursions of the savages.

## CHAPTER VIII.

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### *Capture of the Peacock—Other Naval Affairs.*

THE naval incidents of the second year of the war, with one or two exceptions, were of the same brilliant character as the first. The opening of the year, was signalized by the capture of the *Peacock*, by the *Hornet*, captain Lawrence. This vessel had been left by commodore Bainbridge, shortly before his capture of the *Java*, to blockade the *Bonne Citoyenne*, a British vessel then in the port of Salvador. The British vessel thought proper to decline the challenge. On the twenty-fourth of January, the *Montague*, seventy-four, hove in sight, on which the *Hornet* was compelled to raise the siege.

The *Hornet*, by this occurrence, was compelled to strike out a new course. On the twenty-third of February, she discovered the English brig lying at anchor near the Carabona banks; captain Lawrence stood for her, but while in the act of beating round, for the purpose of coming up, another vessel

of war was espied making towards the Hornet. This proved to be a large man of war brig, the Peacock, captain Peake. It was not long before they were both engaged. In fifteen minutes, the Peacock could with difficulty be kept from sinking; she hung out signals of distress at the same moment that she hauled down her flag. The generous Lawrence immediately dispatched his boats to assist in saving the vanquished crew: every possible effort was made, but in spite of all they could do, she went to the bottom, carrying down three American seamen, and five of her own. The officers and crew having been deprived of their clothing, were supplied by the Americans, who shared with them like brothers. The injury of the Hornet was very slight.

The British, mortified beyond measure at the repeated defeats which they had experienced, found it necessary seriously to devise some mode of retrieving their credit. Several frigates were fitted out in the best possible manner, with picked crews. Marksmen, in imitation, as they pretended, of the Americans, were stationed in the tops, and the artillerists were trained with peculiar attention. The numbers of the crews were increased for the purpose of boarding; in fine, nothing was left undone that might enable them to cope with the formidable Americans.

Captain Lawrence returned in April, and after experiencing every mark of honor, which his country could bestow, was appointed to the command of the Chesapeake, at Boston; the unfortunate vessel which had before the war received so great an insult from the British. The Shannon and Tenedos, were at this time cruizing off the harbour, and sending challenges to the American commanders of frigates. Lawrence unfortunately never received any of them, and was not aware that he had to contend with an enemy specially prepared: but perceiving a British vessel casting defiance as it were in his teeth, by parading in full view of him, he burned to sally forth and try the fortune of his arms. The Chesapeake was undergoing some repairs, the greater part of her crew had been discharged, new hands were to be enlisted, and many of the most important equipments to be made. His impatience hurried every thing forward; no moment was to be lost. On the first of June he moved out, and the Shannon, capt. Broke, espying him, manifested no wish to avoid the contest. Lawrence harangued his crew, when to his inexpressible mortification, he found them sullen, and mutinous; he endeavoured to conciliate them, and arouse within their breasts, a spirit worthy of the occasion. But in vain, as became too soon evident. After some manœuvring they came to close

quarters, and at first the advantage was evidently in favor of the Chesapeake; the fortune of the day soon began to turn, in consequence of the great destruction among the American officers. Sailing master White, was killed; lieutenant Ballard, mortally wounded; lieutenant Brown, of the marines, severely, as also the first lieutenant, Ludlow. Captain Lawrence, although severely wounded, still remained on deck, giving his orders with coolness, as he leaned upon the companion way. He was giving orders for the boarders to come up, when he received a ball in his body, on which he was carried below, exclaiming to his companions, as they carried him off, "*Don't give up the ship,*" which words have become the motto of American seamen. Captain Broke, finding that his vessel had received great injury, and was then almost in a sinking condition, determined to board. The Chesapeake having been disabled in her rigging, she had fallen, to use the seamen's phrase, on board the Shannon. The British commander leaped on deck at the head of about twenty men, and was soon followed by a sufficient number of his crew, to accomplish the object in view. A short but desperate struggle ensued. The loss of officers on the part of the Americans, and the dastardly conduct of the boatswain, who had skulked, instead of calling up the boarders, gave the decided advantage to the enemy. The ac-



tion in a short time terminated in the capture of the Chesapeake. Nearly all the officers on board this ill-fated ship, were either killed or wounded, besides seventy of her crew killed, and eighty wounded. On the part of the enemy there were twenty-three killed and fifty-six wounded. The conduct of the British was not so conspicuous for magnanimity to the vanquished, as would have been wished, with the exception of the honorable interment of the naval heroes Lawrence and Ludlow, on their arrival at Halifax.

The rejoicings in England for this victory, were scarcely more extravagant than those of Nelson, and of their most distinguished admirals. The capture of one American frigate appeared to them a greater exploit, than the capture of a French or Spanish fleet. For a time, the tide of fortune seemed to be in favor of Britain. The *Argus*, early in June, after having carried out the American minister to France, went to cruize in the British channel, where she committed so much havoc, that the British government found it necessary to fit out ships on purpose to encounter this dangerous enemy. By one of these, (the *Pelican*,) she was discovered at night by a ship on fire. Captain Allen fell at the first fire, and his lieutenant soon after. The wheel being unfortunately shot away, she was exposed to raking. In this situation she withstood the

enemy's fire some time, but was at last compelled to surrender, after forty-seven minutes close fighting. This was the last victory fairly obtained by Britain.

Early in July, letters were received from commodore Porter, who, it seems, had sailed round Cape Horn, for the purpose of cutting up the English trade, and destroying the English trade in the south seas. In this, he met with astonishing success; he captured nine of the enemy's ships, the greater part of which were armed; and distributing some of his men on board these ships, he made out to form a respectable fleet, with which he soon became master of the Pacific ocean.

In the Atlantic, victory once more returned to the side of justice. On the first of September, the brig *Enterprize*, capt. Burrows, fell in with the *Boxer*, captain Blythe. The action lasted but little more than thirty minutes, when the Englishman was so roughly handled, that he cried for quarters, as they were unable to haul down the colors, having used the precaution to make sure of their courage, by nailing it to the mast. Both the commanders were killed. Captain Burrows refused to be carried below, and when the sword of his adversary was presented to him, he pressed it to his breast and exclaimed, "*I die contented.*"

Commodore Rodgers, on the twenty-sixth of September, arrived after a cruize of great length, hav-

ing looked at every country on the Atlantic, and circumnavigated the British islands, without molestation from the thousand ships of Great Britain. Off the American coast, he captured a small vessel, the *Highflyer*, with admiral Warren's private signals, by which he was enabled to escape the British cruisers.

The privateers throughout this year, continued to emulate the public vessels, in the boldness and success of their exploits, and in the correctness of their deportment. The *Comet*, the *General Armstrong*, and the *Decatur*, performed a number of acts of the most signal character. The *Decatur* actually captured the *Dominica*, a British public vessel of nearly equal force, after a severe engagement.

## CHAPTER IX.

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### *Russian Mediation—Brilliant events of the War.*

WAR entails upon every nation many evils and many sufferings ; although it is one of the conditions of life, there is none who do not prefer the smiles of peace, to the flickering brand of discord. It was, therefore, not without gladness, that we hailed the first rays of peace, which broke through the clouds, and promised once more, a day of sunshine. The overtures for an armistice, reciprocally made, had entirely failed, when the emperor of Russia interposed his good offices as a mediator, desirous of bringing about an amicable adjustment of differences. President Madison immediately accepted the proposition, and appointed Messrs. Gallatin, Bayard, together with Mr. Adams, the commissioners for the occasion. The two former, as soon as possible embarked for Europe.

The campaign of 1813, the second year of the war, opened with several brilliant affairs, which

served to raise the character of our soldiery. Commodore Chauncey was master of lake Ontario, and sir James Yeo was careful not to shew himself out of Kingston, until the vessels then building would give him the superiority. The commander in chief, general Dearborne, was therefore at liberty to cross to the Canada side with his troops, in the pursuit of any plan of operations he might adopt. Pike, who had been raised to the rank of a brigadier, full of the most ardent desire of distinction, panted for an opportunity of taking the field. An attack on York was resolved upon; the plan and execution were resigned to Pike. This place, the capital of Upper Canada, contained vast quantities of military and naval stores, and moreover, a large vessel almost ready to be launched, which would give the command of the lake to the British.

On the twenty-fifth of April, two thousand men were embarked on board the American squadron, and the next day appeared before York. No time was lost in effecting a landing, at the ruins of the old fort of Toronto, about two miles above the town. This was effected under a severe fire from the enemy, who had been apprised, and were drawn up at water's edge. Forsythe, with his riflemen, led the van; but receiving a galling fire as he neared the shore, he ordered his boatmen to rest on their oars, in order to give his marksmen an opportunity of re-

turning the compliment. This being observed by Pike, who was anxiously watching every movement, he leaped into the boat prepared for himself and staff, and ordered the detachment of major King to follow him. He made good his landing, and placing himself at the head of the troops first formed, gallantly charged upon the enemy, and drove them before him. A few moments after, reinforcements arriving, he moved rapidly forward, drove the enemy from a battery which they had constructed, and then pushed on to another, when the sound of Forsythe's bugles announced victory on his part. As he approached the last battery, it was precipitately abandoned by the enemy. Here his column halted within three hundred yards of the enemy's barracks. While calmly engaged in conversation with a British serjeant, a dreadful explosion took place. It was the magazine in which there had been an immense quantity of gun-powder. Masses of stone and timber, fell in the midst of the Americans, producing a dreadful havoc; upwards of two hundred were at once killed and wounded. Unsubdued by the horrors of this infernal contrivance, and of this scene of desolation, their ranks were instantly closed, and they rent the air with three loud huzzas, while the animating tune of Yankee-doodle, cheered even the dying, and caused the wounded to forget their pain! The chivalrous leader, however, was

here doomed to terminate his short but glorious career: he received a mortal contusion, but still retaining enough of life to give words to his gallant spirit, he thus addressed his troops, "*Move on, my brave fellows, and revenge your general.*" He was then carried on board one of the vessels; the scenes of life were rapidly receding from his view, and his sight growing every moment more dim, when he was somewhat roused by the victorious shout of his men. A moment afterwards, the British flag was brought to him; this for an instant kindled up his fading eye, and requesting that the trophy might be placed under his head, he expired in the midst of his glory.

The American troops, headed by colonel Pearce, took possession of all the British works, and were on full march to York, when they were met by a deputation who offered to surrender. It was agreed that the place, with all the public property, and the troops should be surrendered to the Americans. While the articles of capitulation were under discussion, the British were actually engaged in destroying all the public property, while an opportunity was given to general Sheaffe to escape, with a considerable portion of his regulars. About three o'clock, possession was taken of the town. The order was strictly obeyed, although there existed cause of much exasperation. In the state-house, a

singular trophy was found *over* the speaker's mace ; it was no other than a human scalp ! On such a fact no commentary is necessary. After this, how could any regard to the laws of honorable war, be expected from Great Britain ? After this insult to all civilization and humanity !

General Dearborne did not assume the command, until after possession was taken of the place. Having taken measures for securing the captured stores, and the prisoners, who amounted to about eight hundred, he ordered the place to be evacuated, and soon after re-embarked his troops. Essential service was rendered by commodore Chauncey in covering the landing, and in annoying the enemy's batteries. The American loss in killed and wounded, amounted to two hundred and sixty-nine, that of the British, to nine hundred and thirty men, including prisoners.

On the return to Sackett's Harbor, preparations were made for the attack on fort George, and the British strong holds on the Niagara, which had been vainly attempted the year before. All things being made ready, the army embarked on board the fleet, and on the twenty-second of May, sailed on the contemplated enterprize. The landing took place on the twenty-seventh of the same month. Commodore Chauncey placed his vessels in the best position for annoying the batteries and forts of the ene-



my, while the transports for crossing the invading army, passed the river. General Dearborne, at this time in very ill health, issued his orders from his bed; and the immediate direction of the attack, was entrusted to general Lewis, the next in command. Generals Chandler, Winder and Boyd, with their respective brigades, advanced to the shore with unshaken firmness, under a heavy fire. The advance under colonels Scott and Forsythe, having effected a landing, and being assisted by the fire from the ships, soon cleared the batteries. But the British, throwing themselves into a ravine, completely arrested for a time, the progress of the Americans. After a warm engagement, they were at last compelled to retire, and the whole line of fortifications was abandoned. As soon as a sufficient force was formed, they advanced to the assault of fort George, which they found hastily abandoned, with the flag still flying, which was torn down by colonel Scott and major Hindman. The retreating enemy was pursued some distance, by captain Riddle, and some other active officers. Upwards of five hundred Canadian militia surrendered their arms, and were permitted to depart on parole; one hundred and eight of the regulars were killed, and two hundred and seventy-six wounded and taken prisoners. The loss on our side was thirty-nine killed, and one hundred and eleven wounded. The next

day, fort Erie and all the remaining British fortifications were blown up.

The British, collecting all their forces, amounting to about thirteen hundred men, retreated towards the head of the lake, at the upper end of Burlington bay. If closely pursued, they must inevitably fall into the hands of the Americans, and thus would be terminated the contest along the north-western frontier. On the first of June, generals Chandler and Winder, were dispatched with nearly double the force, to effect this all-important object. This force advanced to Stoney Creek, where they encamped, in expectation of being able to overtake the enemy the next day. These, finding no hope of escaping but through a night attack, about one o'clock the same night, rushed suddenly upon the main guard, and raising a dreadful shout, ran towards the main body of the Americans, who were lying on their arms, and being roused by this, the twenty-fifth regiment was instantly formed and gave the enemy the first fire. But the darkness of the night, and the clouds of smoke, rendering it impossible to distinguish objects, some confusion ensued. A number of the British became intermixed with the American artillerists, and the two American generals, while endeavouring to ascertain the cause, were taken prisoners. At day-break, the American army was found entire, but the enemy had retreated in great

disorder, their spirits completely broken by this unexpected reception, and now giving up all for lost. Unfortunately for us, no officer was left in command, whose station was such as to warrant the responsibility of pursuing the vanquished enemy. Colonel Brown, on a consultation with his officers, resolved on a retreat, which was effected; and the British, under general Vincent, soon after receiving reinforcements, were enabled to maintain their ground.

The absence of commodore Chauncey, and the American forces from Sackett's Harbor, had well nigh given an opportunity to the British of retaliating the capture of York. Towards the latter end of May, the British squadron, with about twelve hundred men, suddenly appeared before the Harbor. The alarm was instantly given, and the regulars and militia posted in the neighbourhood, hastened to the aid of those left to defend the place, which did not amount to one half the number of the assailants. The command was assumed by general Brown, of the militia. The militia under colonel Mills, posted to oppose their landing, after one fire, fled in the most shameful manner, in spite of the efforts of their commander. A more efficient resistance was made by the regulars under colonel Baccus, and major Lavalley and Aspinwall, but who were compelled to retreat. In the mean time, general Brown having

rallied the militia, fell on the enemy's rear, and compelled them to fly with great precipitation, and utterly discomfited. The American loss was about one hundred and fifty, in killed and wounded; that of the British, at least double that number. Sir George Prevost, the governor of Canada, retired, leaving his laurels behind him. Had this attack proved successful, the loss to the United States would have been immense, as this place was the store-house of all their military supplies, both for the naval and land service. A considerable quantity of public stores were unfortunately destroyed by our own officers, under a belief that the enemy had obtained possession of the place.

In the midst of these occurrences, which in general wore so brilliant an appearance, we experienced a severe reverse. General Lewis, who assumed the command after the resignation of general Dearborne, finding himself infested by several large detachments of the enemy, in the neighborhood of fort George, where he had fixed his head quarters, orders colonel Boerstler to march with about five hundred men, and disperse one of these, at a place called La Louvre house. The colonel had not proceeded half way, when he was assailed in front and rear by the British and Indians, and was compelled for some time to contend against very superior numbers. He was at last induced to surrender his whole

force, greatly to the chagrin of the Americans, at being thus thrown away to no purpose. But for this affair, the opening of the campaign in this quarter would have been regarded as far transcending our warmest expectations of success.

About this time, the Six Nations declared war against the British, with a formal proclamation, and entered into an alliance with the United States, stipulating, however, to denounce their barbarous usages in battle, which they faithfully kept.

We now turn our attention for a moment to the westward, and the operations along the frontier of the Ohio. In that quarter a most glorious victory crowned our arms early in the month of August. Until that time, fort Meigs had remained unmolested, while the Americans waited for the result of the naval war on lake Erie, before the adoption of any ulterior movement. Proctor, desirous of embarrassing the preparations of Harrison, and of opening the frontier to the inroads of his allies, the savages, giving them an opportunity of murdering the sleeping babe and helpless female, determined to destroy the different forts which covered the settlements. Fort Stephenson, on the Sandusky, was the first selected. To cover his real intention, he sent Tecumseh to make a push on fort Meigs, while he appeared before fort Stephenson, and demanded its surrender. The officer commanding, was a

youth of twenty-one years of age, major Croghan, who had already distinguished himself at the siege of fort Meigs. He had received orders to abandon this place on the approach of the enemy, but taking all responsibility upon himself, he boldly set the threats of the ungenerous enemy at defiance. The fort was surrounded with pickets, and a ditch about six feet wide. The assailants, consisting of regulars and Indians, to the number of eight hundred, commenced the attack with several pieces of artillery, with which they attempted to make a breach. But those within, secured the point at which the artillery was directed, by placing bags of sand, and even of flour. They now resolved to attempt the place by storm. Colonel Short, with a column of three hundred and fifty men, taking advantage of the smoke, presented himself at the point before mentioned, and crying out to his men to follow him, and to give the d—d Yankees no quarters, landed in the ditch with nearly half of his men. His progress was sooner arrested than he could have expected. The Americans, who were chiefly young volunteers, had carefully concealed a six pounder, the only one which they possessed, in the bastion which protected that part of the ditch: the match was put to it, and being loaded with slugs and musket balls, instantly cut the savage assailants to pieces; not one escaped from the fatal place; a just

dispensation of Providence, for their wicked intentions. The rolling musketry, at the same time, produced great havoc among those who were still on the outside. The assailants fled, pursued by indescribable terror, while the Indians followed, without daring to cast a glance behind. During the night, irregular firing was kept up, while the humane and generous Americans did every thing in their power to relieve the wounded in the ditch. The next morning, the enemy disappeared in haste, leaving behind a considerable quantity of public stores. The loss of the British, exceeded two hundred; while the Americans was only a few wounded, and that while engaged in offering relief to the sufferers.

Croghan and his brave comrades, captain Hunter, lieutenants Johnson, Bayler, Meeks and Anthony, were hailed with the loudest plaudits of their country. The first received the brevet rank of lieutenant-colonel in the regular service. The Indians, after this defeat, were so disgusted with their allies, that they were about to abandon them. The frontier was completely protected from further molestation.

## CHAPTER X.

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### *Capture of the British squadron on Lake Erie—Defeat of Proctor.*

COMMODORE PERRY, whose name now adorns the page of our history, was entrusted, at the commencement of the spring, with the important task of creating a force to oppose the British, who, since the surrender of Hull, had rode triumphant on Lake Erie. The trees that grew on its shores, were commanded to descend upon the waves, and bear our sailors to meet the haughty foe. By the last of August, a fleet was provided, consisting of the following vessels: the *Lawrence*, of twenty-one; the *Niagara*, of twenty; the *Caledonia*, of three; the *Scorpion* and *Somers*, each of two; *Ariel*, of four; *Tigress*, *Trippe*, and *Porcupine*, each of one; in all amounting to fifty-nine guns.

The British fleet, under commodore Barclay, consisted of the *Detroit*, nineteen guns; *Queen Charlotte*, seventeen; *Lady Prevost*, thirteen;



Hunter, ten; Little Belt, three; Chippewa, one; in all 69 guns. This fleet was consequently superior in force to that of the Americans, although on their side there was a difference in the number of ships.

No sooner was the American commodore on the lake, than he went in pursuit of his antagonist, who felt no wish to decline the meeting. This, however, did not take place until the twelfth of September, near Put-in-bay. The American squadron at anchor, perceiving the British bearing down upon them, got under way. The American flag ship, the *Lawrence*, outsailed the rest of the squadron, and came to close quarters with the *Queen Charlotte* and the *Detroit*. Against these two vessels, the contest was heroically maintained for two hours, until every gun was rendered useless, and nearly all on board either killed or wounded. At this critical moment, the other American vessels which had been kept back were coming up, and the commodore, with admirable coolness, embarked in his boat, with the intention of shifting his flag to the *Niagara*. This was executed in the midst of a heavy fire. Captain Elliot immediately seconded his views, and while Perry led up this vessel in a handsome style, volunteered to bring the other vessels into action. The commodore, breaking through the enemy's line, poured out such tremendous broadsides, as soon

compelled the two largest vessels to strike, and the flag of the *Lawrence*, which had been hauled down, was again hoisted. The remainder of the American fleet coming up, the action in a few minutes terminated in the capture of the whole British squadron, a thing almost unexampled in naval warfare.

*"We have met the enemy,"* said commodore Perry, "and they are ours; two ships, two brigs, one schooner, and one sloop."

The number of prisoners exceeded that of the captors. Twenty-six Americans were killed, and ninety-six wounded. Lieutenant Brooks, of the marines, was killed, as also several valuable American officers. The captain and first lieutenant of the *Queen Charlotte*, were killed; commodore Barclay was severely wounded. The conduct of the victors to the unfortunate, was on this occasion marked by its usual humanity and generosity.

By this event the field of glory was laid open to general Harrison, and the brave volunteers of Kentucky and Ohio. The choicest troops of the west, were already collected for the purpose of following up the success of Perry, if it should please Providence to award it. The venerable governor of Kentucky, Samuel Shelby, was at the head of the volunteers of that state, accompanied by the first men of the commonwealth. The troops being taken on board the fleet, were transported to the Canada

side, where they found the villages and forts evacuated, Proctor having fled in dismay up the Thames. After leaving general M'Arthur, to take command at Detroit, general Harrison, at the head of about three thousand men, commenced a rapid march in pursuit of the fugitive army. In a few days, he gained upon them so rapidly, as to capture considerable quantities of their stores.

On the fifth of October, it was discovered that near the Moravian towns, within a few hours march, they were drawn up in battle array. Having formed his troops into two lines, consisting of Desha's, and Trotter's brigades, under general Henry, with the mounted men of colonel Johnson in front, he advanced against the enemy, who were found drawn up between a river and a marsh, with the Indians under Tecumseh, in the thick brushwood of the swamp. It suddenly suggested itself to general Harrison, to make a charge with his mounted men through the British infantry, drawn up among the open beach wood. Fortune awarded the most complete success to this suggestion. Johnson suddenly dashed through their ranks, formed in their rear, and was preparing to give them a fire with the deadly rifle, when they surrendered. With the Indians, the contest was more obstinate; they at first made some impression upon the American infantry, when governor Shelby brought up a regiment to

their support. The Indians fought desperately, as long as the loud and terrible shout of Tecumseh, encouraging them to persist, could be heard; but already his days were numbered. Colonel Johnson led a charge on the Indians, at the spot where it was supposed the most obstinate resistance was made. A hundred rifles were aimed at him; he was covered with blood and wounds; his horse was about to drop under him, when Tecumseh, with savage ferocity, sprung towards him, and was about to level his rifle, when the colonel lodged a pistol ball in his breast. The daring American was in an instant brought off by his countrymen, and the Indians fled.

General Proctor had, in the meantime, made his escape by means of swift horses.

The conduct of the Kentuckians, who had been vilily slandered by Proctor, was magnanimous in the highest degree. They returned not evil for evil, but to the prisoners in their possession, many of whom had participated in the horrid murders of the river Raisin, they were humane and attentive. The immediate consequence of the defeat of the allies, and the death of Tecumseh, was a cessation of hostilities on the part of the savages; they came in and agreed to take up the hatchet on the side of the United States. The whole of the North Western Territory was once more in possession of the Ame-

ricans, with the exception of Michilimackinac, which was not given up until the close of the war. The volunteers and militia returned to their homes, and general Harrison was at liberty with the remainder of the troops to co-operate with the forces on the Niagara.

Commodore Chauncey, at this time, was master of Lake Ontario. He had repeatedly attempted to bring his antagonist to action, but in vain. Several running fights, however, took place, in which the British knight displayed great naval skill in making his escape. This shyness was not a little increased by the victory obtained by commodore Perry; in fact, after this occurrence, he studiously avoided coming to action with but a superiority so decided as to leave no doubt of the result.

The nation was in the highest degree delighted with the glorious termination of the western war. Fortune appeared to smile upon their arms at last. Canada must now be ours. The administration, anxious to gratify the public expectations, lost no time in making the attempt. The general in command, was an old and experienced officer, of acknowledged abilities; general Wilkinson had been ordered from the south, and in the course of the summer, had assumed the directions of the military operations on the Niagara; while general Hampton, another officer of experience, took command of the

forces at Plattsburgh. The Secretary, general Armstrong, possessed the confidence of the nation for his capacity, and the vigorous measures which he seemed to adopt. This officer, in order to be near the field of action, and direct the movements of the army, established his office near the frontier.

The army of general Wilkinson, in the month of October, was transferred to Sacket's-Harbor, leaving but a small number of troops on the Niagara, where general Harrison did not arrive until some time after his departure. The destination of the army was studiously concealed. Such dispositions were made, however, as induced the enemy to believe, that the design was to attack Kingston, while the intention was in reality, to descend the river St. Lawrence, and forming a junction with general Hampton, proceed directly to Montreal, thus completely girdling the tree, and mastering all Upper Canada. The season, however, was almost so far advanced, and this although practicable the first year, had become much more difficult, from the time which had been allowed the enemy to discipline their militia, augment their forces, and fortify the river.

It was not before the third of November, that general Wilkinson could get fairly under way, while he began already to experience the severity of the season. The British were anxiously watching his movements. Choosing a dark night, he passed the

fortified post called Prescott, but not undiscovered: in his descent, he was a good deal annoyed by their musketry, and the next morning they were found hanging on his rear with all the force that could be collected. Having to pass the rapids of the river, of about eight miles in length, general Brown was detached with a considerable force to clear the way for the passage of the flotilla. This was not effected without considerable difficulty; general Brown, after a smart skirmish, dispersed the enemy, but it being too late to proceed, the flotilla lay by for the night. In the morning, when about to proceed, a considerable force was discovered in the rear on the Canada side; a halt was therefore commanded, while general Boyd was ordered to face about with his brigade, and beat off the enemy. The Americans were drawn up in three columns, commanded by generals Covington, Swartwout and Coles. After a warm action, which lasted an hour, in which the enemy was obliged to give way before the bayonet, they were at length compelled to retreat. The Americans having expended their ammunition, were obliged to make a retrograde movement. A violent storm arose about the same time, which together with the approach of night, contributed to clear the field of battle. From the place in which it was fought, this has been called the battle of Chrystler's field; on the American side, there were about six-

teen hundred; the force of the British was about the same. The American loss was three hundred and thirty-nine in killed and wounded; among the former, general Covington, a brave and gallant officer. The enemy's loss is supposed to have been still greater. There is no doubt of their defeat, as they were thenceforth compelled to suffer the Americans to continue their course unmolested. General Wilkinson, on reaching Ogdensburg, had sent orders to general Hampton to meet him at St. Regis, at which place he had now arrived, but without finding him. This officer, from the disclosure made to him, of the state of general Wilkinson's supplies, and from the distance he would be placed from his magazines, together with the great difficulties of transportation, on account of the badness of the roads, had concluded to take upon himself the responsibility of consulting these circumstances. He had, therefore, attempted to penetrate to the St. Lawrence in another direction, but without success, and after falling back, was then at a place called the Four Corners, where he waited the orders of the commander in chief, professing still a willingness to co-operate in any plan he might adopt. Thus terminated the mighty invasion of Canada, from which so much was expected. The commanding general, in order to excuse himself, threw the blame on Hampton, and the secretary at war, on



both. But the truth is, the season had been too far advanced, and the force was not sufficient for the contemplated enterprize. The disappointment to the nation, however, tended to bring into discredit the leaders in this campaign, which turned out so barren of glory. The army retired into winter-quarters.

This military movement was calculated only on success; no allowance was made for the possibility of a failure. The bad effects of this were soon experienced. General Harrison had received orders to move down the St. Lawrence, and join the army, the whole Niagara frontier was therefore left unprotected. General M'Clure, who was left in command at fort George, finding that the enemy was approaching in considerable numbers, blew up the fort and evacuated the Canada side; at the same time, burning the village of Newark, situate near the fort; an act, at the time, universally censured and lamented in the United States, and which the government took the earliest opportunity to disavow. It seems the general had received orders to burn the village, in case it should be found necessary for defence; misconceiving these orders, he set fire to the place on his departure. His conduct was submitted to a court of inquiry, which passed a severe censure on it. The British, not content with this, crossed the river in considerable force, took

fort Niagara by surprise, put the garrison to death, and then laid waste, with fire and sword, the whole frontier, for ten or fifteen miles. The flourishing village of Buffaloe was laid in ashes, together with several others. It was afterwards declared, by sir George Prevost, that he was satisfied with this *ample measure of retaliation.*

## CHAPTER XI.

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### *War on the Atlantic sea-coast—Disgraceful conduct of the British.*

THE first year of the war, found England too busily engaged in the great events of Europe, to think of bending her mind to the contest with America. Excepting a general proclamation of blockade, our Atlantic coast was not molested. In the year 1813, she sat about carrying on hostilities in a more serious manner. She had threatened much of burning all the American sea-port towns, and laying waste the country. She thought to intimidate us by these barbarous threats.

In the month of March, the Poictiers made her appearance in the Delaware, and sending out shallops commenced a pitiful species of marauding warfare. The property of private citizens was the object of their ambition. By the rules of war, the persons and property of non-combatants are exempted from the devastations of war. Without be-

nefiting the cause for which they fought, the British ruined many of the inhabitants of the country. Admiral Beresford, the commander of the squadron, made a demand on the inhabitants of Lewistown for water and provisions, and on being refused, he made an ineffectual attempt to obtain them on compulsion, by bombarding the place. The militia under colonel Davis and major Hunter, manfully resisted every attack.

From the Delaware, they proceeded to the Chesapeake, where their course was marked by the most lawless depredations and conflagrations. The genius of history blushes as she records them. There is not one solitary act of benevolence or magnanimity, to rescue the character of the British officers and seamen from the dark disgrace. Indiscriminate havoc was every where committed. One of their first exploits, was plundering and destroying the small village of Frenchtown, a place of mercantile deposit and transit, on Elk river. From Frenchtown, they proceeded to Havre-de-Grace, where they perpetrated the grossest outrages on decency and humanity, without the slightest pretext. Every house of this little village was consigned to the flames, and a scene of the most disgraceful plunder was acted, in which officers and men mingled alike; the plunder consisted of household furniture, bed clothes, pans, and spoons!—They burnt and

destroyed several valuable manufactories, after which they went to the neat village church, not to ask forgiveness of their sins, but in order to wreak their vengeance on this peaceful dwelling, by defacing it in the most shameful manner. After this, they perpetrated the same acts to the two villages of Fredericktown and Georgetown. This unworthy warfare continued until the latter part of June, when their movements indicated an attack upon the town of Norfolk. On the lower part of the bay, the militia, on several occasions, bravely put the marauders to flight. The Virginians, and Marylanders, were frequently called out from their houses, and much harrassed through the whole season, from the continually shifting scene of the war. The coast is so much intersected with creeks and rivers, that it was impossible for any force to move rapidly from one point to another, to repel this desultory warfare. The great object being the defence of Norfolk, the troops were kept in the neighborhood of that place, and there was no considerable naval force to protect the waters.

This place was committed to the charge of general Taylor, of the militia of Virginia. No one could be more capable of providing the numerous minute precautions for executing the plans requisite to be adopted. The town of Norfolk was happily saved, by the valour of the marines and militia, and

the state of Virginia relieved from a most dangerous enemy; for had possession been taken of this place, the enemy could have done them incalculable mischief. Wherever the enemy met a steady resistance from the regular troops or militia, after this they retreated precipitately to their boats, or returned to their fleet. The chief leader in this warfare, so dishonorable to the British nation, was admiral Cockburn, whose conduct was, on every occasion, that of a ferocious, unfeeling bucanier.

On the twenty-first of June, the movements indicated an attack on Craney Island, and on the next day, they landed upwards of two thousand men, for the purpose of assailing the batteries on the west end of the island. Shortly after the debarkation of these troops, forty-five or fifty boats, filled with sailors and marines, left the shipping and approached the north side of the island. The naval force of the United States, united in defence of the post; the enemy was completely beaten off. His loss was not less than two hundred, besides deserters. Four or five barges were sunk. The Centipede, fifty feet long, admiral Warren's boat, with twenty-four oars, was captured, with twenty-two prisoners, a brass three pounder, and a number of muskets, pistols and cutlasses. Forty British deserters were brought in, and many others were dispersed through

the country. There was not one man lost on the American side during the day.

The enemy, exasperated at this inglorious attempt, in order to give a loose to his thirst for revenge, resolved to attack the village of Hampton, lower down the bay. On the twenty-fifth of June, he landed two thousand five hundred men, and after a gallant resistance on the part of the militia, and a few regulars who were there, the town was taken. The scene which ensued, far surpassed any thing ever before acted by the ferocious enemy, with whom we had to contend; such conduct should be held up to universal execration, in order that the condemnation of public opinion may prevent the recurrence of the like among civilized people. The utmost licentiousness was permitted, in the treatment of the unfortunate females, who fell into the power of the enemy; without regard to their respectability in society, they were seized by ruffians, and several of them actually died in consequence of the shocking treatment they received. A poor old man, sick abed, was set up by them, and shot, in the arms of his aged wife, who was also wounded; and their faithful dog was put to death. The sick in the hospitals were not spared, and every act of savage violence was committed, apparently without any attempt to restrain the perpetrators. A letter on the subject of this infamous conduct, which so deeply

implicated the character of the British nation, was addressed by general Taylor to sir Sidney Beckwith, who at first stated, that it was in retaliation for the shooting a man at Craney Island, while he hung to a barge that had overset. A court of inquiry was immediately instituted, which completely disproved the charge; on this being communicated to sir Sidney, he sent a verbal reply, that he was sorry for the excesses committed by his troops, but that he would, in future, prevent their falling into such conduct. A savage chieftain could have alleged the same kind of excuse, for the ungovernable warriors whom he led. The subject underwent an examination before a committee of Congress, who reported upon it in terms as strong as language could express them. It is most sincerely to be lamented, that greater regard was not paid to the feelings of America by the British government; for these affairs must unavoidably render it difficult for the restoration of that harmony and good understanding, which it is undoubtedly the interest of both nations to cherish. For the remainder of the season, the enemy contented himself with his petty war of plunder, and occasionally threatening the towns south of the Delaware.

Having thus given an account of what happened on the coast, a war which redounded so little to the honor of England, we shall pass in review the im-



portant war of the south; with the Creek Indians, which was closely connected with the hostilities with England. Very soon after the commencement of the war, the Seminole Indians, on the borders of Georgia, with a number of runaway negroes, began to make inroads, and to infest the frontiers. On the eleventh of September, 1812, captain Williams, of the marines, convoying some waggons, loaded with military supplies, was attacked by a party of these people, and was compelled to retreat with the loss of several men, himself receiving a wound, of which he afterwards died. Towards the close of the same month, colonel Norman, with about one hundred Georgian volunteers, proceeded towards the Latchway towns, with a view of chastising the savages. He was attacked by a large body of Indians, and after a sharp conflict, compelled them to fly, leaving their king Paine, on the ground; after repeated efforts to gain the dead body, they at length succeeded by bringing up additional numbers, after which they moved off. They soon after returned, however, with a still more powerful party; the Georgians, apprehending this, had hastily thrown up a breast work, in which they were soon closely besieged. The siege was kept up for some days, until they found it impossible to do any thing, on which they retired, but returned in a little while, under the belief, from the stillness which reigned in

the camp, that the Americans had abandoned it. On crowding up to it, they were saluted with a volley or two, which sent them howling to the woods. After this the Georgians decamped, and reached the place from whence they set out, after encountering no small degree of fatigue. This affair had a most favorable operation on the minds of the savages, who were thenceforth exceedingly shy of the settlements.

A more serious war broke out in the course of the year 1813, with the Creek nation. The American government had taken great pains to civilize these people, and had spared no expense to effect this humane object. But its endeavours had met with no more than a partial success, for many of the natives obstinately adhered to their Indian manners, and violently opposed the introduction of the acts of civilization. The celebrated Tecumseh had paid them a visit, in which he threw among them additional causes of discord. A civil war took place, and the savage part of the nation proved the strongest, the rest were either compelled to fly, or to join those who were for war with the United States. A wonderful degree of superstition and fanaticism were brought into play on the occasion; they were led to believe, by their priests or magicians, that they would certainly defeat us by the assistance of their potent charms. The credulous

creatures were persuaded, by these conjurors, to destroy all their cattle, so that there should be nothing among them that might wear the appearance of civilization. They were further stimulated by the British agents, who also gave them some supply of arms, and made them promises of assistance. It was not, however, until towards the close of August, that hostilities openly commenced on their part; but this was a commencement of a most shocking kind.

Foreseeing the approaching storm, the settlers on the Mobile and Alabama, had collected in small forts, or stations, erected for their security. At one of these called fort Mims, about three hundred persons, men, women and children, had taken refuge. It was defended by major Beasley, of the Mississippi territory, with about one hundred and thirty volunteers. A party of five hundred Creeks, suddenly appeared before this place, and attacked it at noon day. Unfortunately, the gate happened to be standing open, as the Indians rushed towards it with a hideous shout. The major attempted to close the gate, and fought with bravery while life remained, for he soon fell mortally wounded. The Indians were at length repelled, with the exception of a few who had taken the block-house, from which they were after some time dislodged. A second assault was made, which unhappily proved more successful,

A breach was made in the pickets, and the savages gained possession of the area of the fort, but not without great loss. From the houses or barracks in which the troops had taken shelter, a fight was still kept up for some time, but they succeeded at last in setting fire to the roofs. Dreadful were the agonizing shrieks of the wretched victims of this infernal tragedy. With the exception of a few privates, who made their escape over the pickets, the whole of these unhappy people perished by savage violence, or were consumed by the flames.

This atrocious outrage, demanded a prompt retaliation. The Indians, having thus wantonly violated the peace, which had been for so many years established between them and the whites, the governments of the nearest states, of Georgia and Tennessee, and also of the Mississippi territory, without delay concerted measures for carrying war into the country of the Creeks. To do this at once, and effectively, was the only way to ensure safety to the exposed frontiers, and at the same time to prevent the rising of the Southern Indians. There is but little doubt, that all this might have been prevented, if the United States had condescended to employ the Indians in the prevailing war. The infernal policy of the British government, in employing and in exciting these short sighted people, was the cause of the unhappy fate, which as a just retribution over-

took the Creeks. A series of brilliant victories over this desperate and deluded foe, gained by generals Floyd, of Georgia, Coffee, White, and Jackson, of Tennessee, in the course of one season, humbled them in the dust.

On the shortest notice, general Jackson brought together a brigade of mounted riflemen and cavalry, and immediately penetrated the Creek country. On the second of November, he detached general Coffee with about 900 men, to destroy the Tullushatches town, where a considerable body of warriors had assembled. A party was sent to draw them out, which completely succeeded, and the Creeks found themselves suddenly opposed to the whole American force. They notwithstanding, fought with astonishing desperation, but were at last compelled to retreat to their village, where they continued their resistance, obstinately refusing quarters, until every one perished. The women and children of the village, to the number of eighty, were taken prisoners. Coffee had five men killed, and forty-one slightly wounded.

On the morning of the seventh, a friendly Indian brought intelligence to general Jackson, that about thirty miles below his camp, there were a number of Creeks collected, at a place called Talladega, engaged in besieging some friendly Indians, who must inevitably perish, unless speedily relieved. He

marched at twelve o'clock the same night, at the head of twelve hundred men, and arrived within six miles of the place next evening. At midnight, he again advanced, and by seven o'clock, was within a mile of the enemy. Having approached almost unperceived, within eighty yards of the Indians, the battle commenced on their part with great fury, but being repulsed on all sides, they attempted to make their escape, but soon found themselves inclosed; but two companies having at first given way, a space was left, through which a considerable number of the enemy escaped, and were pursued to the mountains with great slaughter. In this action, the American loss was fifteen killed and eighty wounded. That of the Creeks was little short of three hundred; their whole force exceeded a thousand.

General Cocke, who commanded the other division of the Tennessee militia, on the eleventh, detached general White, from fort Armstrong, where he was encamped, against the hostile towns on the Tallapoose river. After marching the whole night of the seventeenth, he surprised a town at day-light, containing upwards of three hundred warriors, sixty of whom were killed, and the rest taken prisoners. Having burnt several of their villages, which had been deserted, he returned on the twenty-third, without losing a single man.

The Georgia militia, under general Floyd, ad-

vanced into the Creek country, about the last of the month. Receiving information that a great number of Indians were collected at the Autosse towns, on the Tallapoose river, a place which they called their beloved ground, and where, according to their prophets, no white man could molest them; general Floyd, placing himself at the head of nine hundred militia, and four hundred friendly Creeks, marched from his encampment on the Catahouche. On the evening of the twenty-eighth, he encamped within ten miles of the place, and resuming his march at one o'clock, he reached the towns about six, and commenced an attack upon both at the same moment. His troops were met by the Indians, with uncommon bravery; and it was not until after a severe battle, that they were forced, by his musketry and bayonets, to fly to the thickets and copses, in the rear of the towns. In the course of three hours, the enemy was completely defeated, and the villages in flames. Eleven Americans were killed, and fifty wounded, among the latter, the general himself: of the enemy, it is supposed, that besides the Autosse and Tallassee kings, upwards of two hundred were killed.

This just retribution, it was hoped, would bring these wretched creatures to a proper sense of their situation; but unfortunately, it had not this effect, they still persisted in their hostilities against us. In

the month of December, general Claiborne marched a detachment against the towns of Eccanachaca, on the Alabama river. On the twenty-second, he came suddenly upon them, killed thirty of their warriors, and after destroying their villages, returned with a trifling loss.

After the battle of Talladega, general Jackson was left with but a handful of men, in consequence of the term of the militia having expired. On the fourteenth of January, he was fortunately reinforced by eight hundred volunteers from Tennessee, and soon after, by several hundred friendly Indians. He was shortly after joined by general Coffee, with a number of officers, his militia having also returned home. On the seventeenth, with a view of making a diversion in favour of general Floyd, and at the same time to relieve fort Armstrong, which was said to be threatened, he penetrated the Indian country. On the evening of the twenty-first, believing himself, from appearances, in the vicinity of a large body of Indians, he encamped, with great precaution, and placed himself in the best attitude of defence. About day-light, he was furiously attacked, and after a severe contest, the Creeks were compelled once more to yield. They fled in every direction.

General Jackson, being apprehensive of another attack, fortified his camp for the night; the next:



day, fearing a want of provisions, he found it necessary to retreat, and before night, reached Enotachopco, having passed a dangerous defile without interruption. In the morning, he had to cross a defile still more dangerous, where he might expect an attack; he therefore determined to pass at some other point. The most judicious arrangements having been made, for the disposition of his force, in case of an attack, he moved forwards, towards the pass which he had selected. The front guard, with part of the flank columns, together with the wounded, had scarcely crossed the creek, when the alarm was given in the rear. Jackson immediately gave orders for his right and left columns to wheel on their pivot, and crossing the stream above and below, assail the flanks and rear of the enemy, and thus completely enclose them. But to his astonishment and mortification, when the word was given for these columns to form, and a few guns were fired, they precipitately gave way. This unaccountable flight had well nigh proved fatal: it drew along with it the greater part of the centre column, leaving not more than twenty-five men, who being formed by colonel Carrol, maintained their ground for a time against overwhelming numbers. All that could now be opposed to the enemy, were the few who remained of the rear guard, the artillery company, and captain Rupel's company of spies. Their

conduct, however, was admirable. Lieut. Armstrong, with the utmost coolness and intrepidity, dragged, with the assistance of a few more, the six pounder up the hill, although exposed to a heavy fire; and having gained his position, loaded the piece with grape, and fired it with such effect, that after a few discharges, the enemy was repulsed. The Indians were pursued for several miles, by colonel Carrol, colonel Higgins, and captains Elliot and Pipkins. Captain Gordon, of the spies, had partly succeeded in turning their flank, and by this impetuous charge, contributed greatly to restore the day. The Americans now continued their march without further molestation. In these different engagements, about twenty Americans were killed, and seventy-five wounded; in the last, about one hundred and eighty of the Creeks were slain.

General Floyd, who was advancing from the Chatahoochie, was attacked in his camp by a large body of Indians, an hour before day. They stole upon the sentinels, fired upon them, and then rushed with great impetuosity towards the line. The action soon became general; the front of both flanks was closely pressed, but the firmness of the officers and men, repelled their assaults at every point. As soon as it became sufficiently light, gen. Floyd strengthened his right wing, and formed his cavalry in the rear, then directed a charge; the enemy were dri-

ven before the bayonet, and being pursued by the cavalry, many of them were killed. The loss of general Floyd, was seventeen killed, and one hundred and thirty-two wounded. That of the Indians could not be ascertained; thirty-seven of their warriors were left dead on the field, but it is thought their loss was very considerable.

It might be supposed that these repeated defeats, might tend to destroy the influence of these fanatical prophets, among the unhappy Creeks; but they still persisted, in the most unaccountable manner, in completing their own ruin. General Jackson, having received considerable reinforcements from Tennessee, and being joined by a number of friendly Indians, set out on an expedition to Tallapoosa river. He proceeded from the Coosa on the twenty-fourth of March, reached the southern extremity of the New Youca on the twenty-seventh, at a place called the Horse-shoe bend of the Coosa, where the Creeks had selected a strong natural position, and having fortified it, awaited the attack of their enemies. A breast work had been thrown up across the neck, of considerable strength and compactness. The warriors from Oakfuskee, Oakshaya, Hillebees, the Fish Ponds, and Eupauta towns, had collected their force at this place, in number exceeding a thousand.

On the morning of the twenty-seventh, general Jackson detached general Coffee with the mounted men and Indians, to surround the bend, while he advanced with the main body of the troops, to assail the breast works. At half past ten, he planted his artillery within two hundred yards of their works. A brisk cannonade was opened upon the centre, and a severe fire was kept up with musketry and rifles, when the Indians ventured to show themselves behind their defences. General Coffee having executed his order, his Indians no sooner heard the firing in front, than a number dashing into the stream, swam across, and bringing back the canoes of the Creeks, enabled their comrades to pass over, which they did, and attacking the Creeks, drove them from the shelter of their cabins up to the breast works.

General Jackson, finding that his arrangements were now complete, at length yielded to the earnest solicitations of his men to be led to the charge. The regular troops, led by colonel Williams and major Montgomery, were in a moment, in possession of the nearest part of the breast works : the militia accompanied them with equal firmness and intrepidity. Having maintained, for a few minutes, a very obstinate contest, muzzle to muzzle, through the port holes, they succeeded in gaining the opposite side of the works. The event could no longer be doubtful ;

the enemy, although many of them fought with that kind of bravery which desperation inspires, were cut in pieces. The whole margin of the river, which surrounded the peninsula, was strewed with the slain. Five hundred and fifty-seven were found, besides those thrown into the river by their friends, or drowned in attempting to escape. Not more than fifty could have escaped. Among the slain, was their great prophet Manahoe, and two others of less note. About three hundred women and children were taken prisoners. Jackson's loss, was twenty-six white men killed, and one hundred and seven wounded; eighteen Cherokees killed, and thirty-six wounded; and five friendly Creeks killed and eleven wounded.

This most decisive victory, put an end to the Creek war. The spirit and power of these misguided men were completely broken: Jackson soon after scoured the countries on the Coose and Tallapoosa; a party of the enemy, on the latter river, on his approach, fled to Pensacola. The greater part of the Creeks now came forward, and threw themselves at the mercy of the victors. A detachment of militia from North and South Carolina, under the command of colonel Pearson, scoured the country on the Alabama, and received the submission of a great number of Creek warriors and their prophets.

In the course of the summer, a treaty of peace was dictated to them by Jackson, on severe but just terms. They agreed to yield a portion of their country as an indemnity for the expenses of the war; they conceded the privilege of opening roads through their country, and navigating their rivers; they stipulated to hold no intercourse with any British or Spanish post, or garrison, and to deliver up the property they had taken from the whites and friendly Indians. The general, on the part of the United States, undertook to guarantee their territory, to restore all their prisoners, and in consideration of their destitute situation, to furnish them gratuitously with the necessaries of life, until they could provide for themselves. They also engaged to establish trading houses, and endeavouring to bring back the nation to their former state.

It is truly lamentable to contemplate the ruin of these tribes, who were making such rapid advances to civilization. Their villages were entirely destroyed, and their herds, which had become numerous, were killed by themselves at an early part of the contest. It is to be hoped, they will be restored to their former prosperity, though their experience has been dearly bought.

## CHAPTER XII.

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### *The meetings of Congress—General state of affairs.*

IN the course of the year 1813, the Congress of the United States was twice convened, in consequence of the interesting state of affairs. It was supposed, that in the course of this year, something would occur to demand the attention of the national councils, of a very important nature ; perhaps the conquest of Canada, or a treaty of peace, brought about by the Russian mediation. Both had failed. With respect to the latter, the British excused themselves from entering into it, on the ground of unwillingness to submit their maritime rights to the adjudication of another power, although nothing of this kind was offered. It was at the same time, proposed to enter into direct negotiation, at some place to be appointed by the American commissioners. A mere subterfuge, which was used, on being accepted by the American commissioners, as the means of keeping them in suspense. Whatever wil-

lingness the American government had, at first, a right calculated upon, on the part of Britain, was most unexpectedly taken away by the sudden and unexpected change of scene in Europe.

The ambitious Napoleon, whom nothing short of universal dominion could satisfy, was now compelled to taste the bitter fruits of his unwise and sanguinary cause. He had been weakened by the most direful overthrow, that history any where records; but not humbled or subdued, he followed still the phantom which beckoned him to utter ruin; he attempted once more, notwithstanding his mighty reverses, to withstand all Europe in arms; and from the deep into which he had fallen, he was precipitated into one still lower. He became the mock sovereign of Elba; the burlesque of his former greatness. Britain, elated beyond measure at this act of prowess, which she believed her own, was little inclined to hearken to proposals from this country. Her swelling pride could ask no less than a signal chastisement of the American freemen, who dared to seize a favorable opportunity to extort from her, that which was so justly due them.

On the meeting of Congress, the debates were exceedingly animated. Party violence was carried to a lamentable extreme. Much time was taken up in the most bitter and idle recrimination of British and French influence. Every measure proposed for



carrying on the war, was opposed by the minority, with the standing argument of the wickedness and impolicy of the war. Notwithstanding the time thus unnecessarily consumed, many important measures were taken for carrying on the war with spirit and effect. Additional troops were ordered to be raised, and as enlistments proceeded slowly, a considerable bounty, in money and in lands, were offered to recruits. The revenue, which had arisen chiefly from imports, and the proceeds of the sales of public lands, being found inadequate to meet the present war expences, resort was at first had to loans; it was now discovered, that difficulties would occur in this mode of raising money, without some security which would place the lenders beyond risk; taxes were therefore decreed.

An impartial question was at the same time submitted by the President, to the consideration of Congress, which took up much time in the House of Representatives. At the battle of Queenstown, forty of the prisoners taken by the British, proved to have been native subjects of the British dominions. They were immediately ordered into close custody, and it was given out that they would be prosecuted for high treason. This was no sooner made known to the American government, than twice the number were ordered into custody by the President; which was followed by the confinement of all prisoners of

war on both sides. It was not known where this retaliation would terminate ; but it was, after a most animated debate in Congress, resolved to proceed, step by step, with the enemy. The conduct of G. Britain, was in direct contradiction to her usual practice, and contrary to the principles of all other civilized nations. He that owes perpetual allegiance to any man, or society, is in fact a slave.

An embargo had been laid, in consequence of the illicit trade constantly kept with the enemy, from the northern ports ; this was taken off, on account of the great change in the affairs of Europe, and the neutral nations once more called into life. About this time also, the northern states, which had thus far been treated with so much indulgence by the enemy, were placed under a strict blockade.

Notwithstanding the unpopularity of the war in many parts of the Union, at the outset, and the injurious means resorted to, for the purpose of embarrassing the government, it was gradually enlisting the feelings of all Americans. The victories gained by our gallant seamen, could not fail of touching the pride of the most inveterate opposers of the war. There is, besides, in military renown, something which strongly seizes the feelings : certain it is, that the longer the war continued, the greater the number who entered into it with their wishes and feelings.

## CHAPTER XIII.

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### *Naval Affairs—War carried on against the Eastern States.*

In the course of the year 1813, an American squadron, consisting of the United States, commodore Decatur, the Macedonian, captain Jones, and the sloop of war Hornet, captain Biddle, was blockaded in the harbor of New-York, by a strong squadron of the enemy. After making several attempts to escape, and proceed on a cruise, they ran out through the sound, but were immediately pursued, and so closely as to be compelled to run into the harbor of New-London. Here the frigates were towed up the river, as far as practicable, and a military force called out to pilot them. The frigates were detained in this place during almost the whole of the war.

On the twenty-ninth of April, 1814, captain War-rington, in the United States sloop of war Peacock, fell in with, and captured, the British sloop of war

Epervier, rating and mounting eighteen thirty-two pound carronades, with a crew of one hundred and twenty-eight men. In the action, the Epervier had eleven killed, and fifteen wounded, among the latter her first lieutenant, severely. On board the Peacock, not a man was killed, and but two were wounded. The Epervier was almost cut to pieces, while the American vessel, in fifteen minutes after, was fit for action. On board the prize, was found upwards of one hundred thousand dollars in specie, which were taken out, after which she went to Savannah, under lieutenant colonel Nicholson, where she arrived safely.

Another victory, not less brilliant, followed close after. The sloop of war Wasp, captain Blakely, engaged, and after an action of nineteen minutes, captured the British sloop Reindeer, of superior force. The Reindeer was desperately fought, and the execution on both ships was very great. Two attempts made by the enemy to board, but with no success. The prize was so much injured, that it was found impracticable to bring her in; she was accordingly set on fire, and blown up. The Wasp had five killed; the other twenty-three killed, and forty-two wounded.

The Wasp, after putting into L'Orient to repair, and to dispose of her prisoners, again sailed out on the twenty-seventh of August. She had not been

long out, until a second opportunity occurred, of putting her prowess to the test. On the first of September, she fell in with the Avon, and after a short, but warm engagement, this vessel was compelled to strike; but when possession was about to be taken of the prize, the Chastilian, a brig of eighteen guns, was descried; preparation was immediately made for action, but the appearance of two other vessels, and the Avon at the same time making signals of distress, the Wasp bore away. The Wasp afterwards captured the Atalanta, a brig of eight guns. After these numerous exploits, sinking two ships of war, and capturing enemies property to the amount of at least a million of dollars, the Wasp was for a long time fondly expected home: but alas! her fate is now but too certain; our gallant seamen are covered by the mountain waves of the ocean.

The daring commander, captain Porter, was master of the Pacific, with his singularly created fleet. The enemies flag was expelled from those waters, and the British whale fishery entirely destroyed. The admiralty was obliged to fit out several vessels, for the express purpose of encountering this formidable enemy. Captain Porter, having been a long time at sea, was under the necessity of selecting a landing place, where he could refresh his men, by some relaxation from their long and arduous service, and where he could repair his vessels. He landed

at an unfrequented island called Nooaheva, inhabited by numerous tribes of the natives. They at first granted him permission, but afterwards became hostile, and compelled him either to quit the island, or to give them a signal chastisement. He preferred the latter, and they afterwards treated him with respect; it was also a means of bringing about a general peace among all the tribes. After having completely refitted, he sailed for Valparaiso, in company with the *Essex Junior*. Soon after his arrival, the British frigate *Phœbe*, captain Hillyar, carrying fifty-three guns, in company with the sloop of war *Cherub*, captain Tucker, mounting twenty-eight guns, made their appearance. On entering the harbor, the *Phœbe* fell foul of the *Essex* in such a manner as to be completely in her power. The British commander affected to be grateful for this forbearance on the part of captain Porter, and promised to pay the same regard to the neutrality of the port; a promise which he could easily disregard, when it no longer suited him to observe. Repeated attempts were made by the American commander to provoke the British frigate to a single combat, without success. At length, finding that they could outsail the British vessel, he determined to seize a favorable opportunity of running out to sea. On the twenty-eighth of March, he made the experiment, but on sounding the point, a squall carried

away his main-top-mast, in consequence of which, finding it impossible to escape, he attempted to regain the port; failing in this, he put into a small bay, under the guns of a Spanish battery, and let go his anchor. Regardless of the neutrality of the place, the enemy bore down, and the two vessels, choosing each a raking position, opened a tremendous fire upon the unfortunate American frigate. Captain Porter long defended himself with unexampled courage. With three long twelve pounders, run out of his stern ports, he twice compelled the enemy to haul off and repair. They afterwards chose a more secure distance. Captain Porter cut his cable and attempted to board; failing in this, he tried to run his vessel ashore; after trying every expedient, which the most consummate nautical skill could suggest, and supported by an unshaken firmness without a parallel, he was at last compelled to surrender his ship. Out of a crew of two hundred and twenty-five, fifty-eight were killed, and sixty-five wounded, and thirty-one drowned. Thus, after a contest of two hours, a victory was won by the arms of Britain, which covered them with disgrace.

— Captain Porter was allowed to return in the *Essex Junior*, but was shamefully treated by the *Saturn razee*, off *Sandy-Hook*. He was obliged to give up his parole, and afterwards effected his escape in an open boat, at the distance of thirty miles from land.

In order to wind up our naval history, it will be proper to notice several important affairs, which, in order of time, may appear somewhat out of place ; this will, however, be counterbalanced by the advantage of a more connected narrative of the remaining events of the war. In January, 1815, a squadron in the harbor of New-York, consisting of several frigates and ships of war, under the command of commodore Decatur, was destined, by the War Department, to make a cruize in the Indian ocean. The harbor being closely blockaded, the squadron agreed upon a place of rendezvous, and then attempted to sail out singly, and endeavor to elude the enemy. Taking advantage of a dark night, the commodore's ship (the President) stood out, but unfortunately struck on passing the bar, and was detained for two hours, by which means the return of day brought her in sight of the British squadron ; the *Endymion* was, in a short time, so near as to come to action. Decatur at first resolved to board this vessel, and if successful, to abandon his own ship, which had entirely lost her sailing trim, by the unfortunate accident first mentioned. He was disappointed in this by the manœuvres of the enemy ; he therefore opened his guns upon her, and it was not long before she lay a complete log in the water. By this time, the other ships of the squadron had come up, and the President was compelled to sur-



render. The President lost twenty-five killed, and sixty wounded. Nothing in point of naval renown, was lost by America in this affair.

The *Hornet*, capt. Biddle, near the island of Fris-tan d'Acunha, fell in with, and after an action of twenty-two minutes, on the twenty-third of March, 1815, captured his Britannic majesty's brig *Penguin*, captain Dickenson. The captured vessel had fourteen killed, and twenty-eight wounded. Captain Biddle was wounded in the neck, after the *Penguin* had surrendered; an act which so irritated the crew, that it was with great difficulty it could be restrained from refusing quarters to the enemy. Lieut. Connor, a brave officer, was severely wounded. This vessel still continues to grace the list of the navy. The seamanship of the accomplished commander, was displayed on his return home to as much advantage as his valor in the combat. For three days, he was chased by a ship of the line, bearing an admiral's flag, and was compelled to throw his guns overboard, before he could finally effect his escape.

The frigate *Constitution*, returned to the United States, after a long cruize, after the cessation of hostilities. On the twentieth of February, 1815, captain Stewart was attacked by two heavy sloops of war. Notwithstanding the advantage which they possessed, of being able to take raking positions, unless baffled by the utmost exertion of skill. Both

were captured, and proved to be the ship *Cyane*, captain Gordon Falcon, of thirty-four 32 pound carronades, and the brig *Levant*, captain Douglass, of eighteen 32 pound carronades, and two long twelves. On board the enemy, the loss was one hundred in killed and wounded. The *Constitution* had four men killed, and eleven wounded. Captain Stewart carried his prizes into Port Praya, in March; here the British ships *Leander*, and the *Newcastle*, appearing, and the captain apprehending that no regard would be paid to the neutrality of the place, endeavored to make his escape with his prizes. After a long chase, he succeeded in getting off the *Cyane*, but the *Levant* was compelled to return to port, where she was captured in violation of the laws of nations. This concludes the naval history of the late war; we now turn back on our steps, in order to resume the regular plan of our narrative.

During the last year of the war, the leniency at first practised towards the Eastern states was succeeded by acts of hostility, although not of so lawless a character, yet sufficiently rigorous to make them feel the war.

An opportunity was afforded the inhabitants, of convincing the common enemy, that disaffection to the Union, was the last thing thought of by the great mass of the people, whatever sentiments might be

privately entertained by a few. Commodore Hardy was gallantly resisted at Stonington, a small village, at which a few militia had been hastily collected. A heavy bombardment was kept up for forty-eight hours, and the British barges which attempted to land, were several times compelled to retire. Great praise was bestowed in every part of the United States, on these brave citizens, in the defence of their town.

In the course of the summer, several important expeditions were undertaken by the enemy, against the extreme north-eastern frontier of the U. States, where the American forces could make but a feeble resistance.

Eastport, Castine, Machias, and other villages between the Penobscot and the bay of Passamaquoddy, were successively visited, without any resistance of consequence. The British commander, affected to take formal possession of all the country east of Penobscot, and fortifying Eastport, established a garrison of twelve hundred men. The exact boundary in this quarter, had never been perfectly ascertained; it had been doubtful to whom several of the islands properly belonged; this, at the conclusion of the war, gave rise to an article of the treaty.

In consequence of the taking of Castine, the frigate John Adams was unfortunately lost. Captain

Morris had put into the Penobscot a few days before. Having no means of defending his ship against a powerful force, he was compelled to set her on fire, and blow her up.

## CHAPTER XIV.

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### *War on the Northern Frontier—Battles of Chipewew and Niagara.*

AFTER the failure of the last attempt to invade Canada, which had proved so unfortunate to the inhabitants along the Niagara frontier, and which enabled the British to take possession of the American fort, the forces on both sides retired into winter quarters. Nothing of importance took place, until the opening of the campaign, towards the latter end of March. General Wilkinson, finding that a large body of the enemy had been collected at La Cole, marched a considerable portion of his army, for the purpose of attacking their position. They had fortified a large stone mill, and erected other defences. An eighteen pounder was attempted to be brought up by the general, but not succeeding in this, a twelve pounder was substituted. After a fair experiment of the strength of this fortress, and repulsing

a sortie by the enemy, in which captains Larabee and M'Pherson were wounded, a retreat took place. The general then took position at Odeltown, on the dividing line. This inauspicious opening of the campaign, together with the failure of the last, caused this officer, together with Hampton, to be laid on the shelf; and general Izard assumed the command of the one, and general M'Comb of the other.

Early in the spring, general Brown, who had been detached from the main body, with about two thousand men, arrived on the Niagara. The gallant conduct of this officer, on several occasions, had won for him a high character, and it was confidently expected, that he would soon regain the territory in the possession of the enemy. There does not seem to have been any prospects at the commencement of the campaign, of being able to tear any part of Canada from the British; the utmost that could be expected, was to cut off all communication between the Upper and Lower Provinces. The British had availed themselves of the repose of the winter, to construct, at an enormous expense, several large vessels for lakes Champlain and Ontario. Although the United States had not neglected the augmentation of the naval force, they found themselves, at the commencement of the season, unable to cope with the enemy. Commodore Chauncey, was therefore compelled to lay by, until the beginning of sum-

mer, before he could be in a situation to co-operate with the land forces.

Several smaller affairs, however, occurred, to enliven the scene. On the fifth of May, sir James L. Yeo, with four ships, and other vessels of considerable force, appeared before Oswego, with a view of intercepting the stores and necessary equipments for the Superior, then building at Sacket's Harbor. The place was commanded by lieut. colonel Mitchel, with about three hundred men, assisted by captain Boyle, with a party of sailors, and the Growler's crew, under lieut. Pearce. They were so warmly received by the Yankees, that their boats were compelled to fall back with all possible precipitation. Not content with this, they approached the next day with three thousand men, and covered their landing with their ships. These were handsomely peppered as they drew near, and after taking possession of the place, with the loss of more than two hundred men, they found to their inexpressible mortification, that the stores had already been removed, except one barrel of whiskey, which they indignantly stove, and suffered to be swallowed by the earth.

Some time after this, captain Woolsey having brought to, at the mouth of Oswego creek, with the military stores for Sacket's Harbor, received intelligence from his look-out boats, that a flotilla of Bri-

tish gun vessels had chased them. In concert with colonel Appling, a plan of decoying the enemy, who, it appeared, was commanded by captain Popham, was formed. The look-out boat shewing itself, was closely pursued into the creek. Colonel Appling's riflemen having been concealed in the edge of the bank, suddenly shewed themselves, and discharged a volley upon the British, who immediately surrendered. The whole amounting to at least two hundred, were taken prisoners.

It was not until the third of July, that general Brown found himself in a situation to carry his plans into execution. On the evening of that day, orders were issued for the embarkation of the army, which consisted of two brigades, besides the New-York and Pennsylvania volunteers, under general Porter. They were suffered to cross the river and land without molestation: the first brigade under general Scott, the artillery commanded by major Hindman, landed before Fort Erie, while general Ripley with the second, landed some distance above the fort. The garrison was invested, and being almost taken by surprise, surrendered with very little resistance. One hundred and thirty-seven prisoners were taken. Placing a small garrison in the fort, general Brown moved the following day to Chippewa plains. In approaching this place, general Porter's advance met some light bodies of the



enemy, and encountered them in a wood; after beating them, the volunteers pursued, until they found themselves, on a sudden, in contact with the main body of the British army. They were about to give way, when general Brown ordered Scott's brigade to advance with Towson's artillery, and draw the enemy into the plain. The engagement became general. The left flank of Scott's brigade, was exposed, in consequence of the volunteers having fallen back, but major Jessup, who commanded here, ordered his battalion to carry arms and advance, until choosing a favorable position, he poured a deadly fire upon the enemy, which compelled them to retreat. General Ripley was ordered to move up with his brigade, and turn the right wing; before this could be executed, the British had given ground, and on approaching the declivity of the hill, they broke and fled in disorder, behind their works. This action was close and severe; it was fought with great courage and skill on both sides. The Americans had sixty killed and two hundred and forty-eight wounded; on the side of the British, their killed amounted to one hundred and thirty-three, and three hundred and twenty wounded.

This victory diffused a very general joy over the United States. Many of the Wellingtonian veteran regiments had already reached America, and partaken the disgrace, while every account from

England announced the hostile temper of that country. This complete victory on the part of general Brown, had an excellent effect.

After this sore drubbing, the invincibles retired to fort George, abandoning all the intermediate posts, but not without being closely pressed in their retreat. General Brown returned to Queenstown heights, where he soon after learned that large reinforcements had reached the enemy from Kingston to Prescott. On this, he receded to Chippewa and encamped. On the twenty-fifth of July, a strong detachment was discovered on its march towards Schlosser, on the opposite side, which seemed to threaten the American deposit there. In order to counteract this, Scott's brigade and Towson's artillery, marched in the direction of Queenstown.

On approaching the falls of Niagara, the British army was discovered directly in front, occupying a position which had been carefully selected. General Scott immediately dispatched a messenger with this information, to general Brown; but before the arrival of the messenger, the report of cannon told that the battle was already begun, and the general hastened to the field with his main force. General Scott, and the artillery under Towson, were warmly engaged. The twenty-fifth, under its gallant commander, maj. Jessup, moved to the right of the main body, with discretionary orders to be governed by

circumstances. Desperate was this contest, for several hours; the American ranks were thinned, and at every moment diminishing, before the vast disparity of numbers opposed to them. They still maintained their ground with undaunted firmness, in expectation of being reinforced by general Brown. Meanwhile, colonel Jessup, taking advantage of the neglect of the enemy, in leaving his left unguarded, gained their rear, and as the clouds of night were fast descending, he penetrated the British line, and cut off its left wing, making prisoners of general Riall and suit, while general Drummond narrowly escaped the same fate: one of his aids was however taken, and by this, the execution of a manœuvre, which would have at once overpowered the strength of the Americans, was prevented.

Ripley's brigade at length arrived, and in order to relieve the troops of general Scott, now almost exhausted, they displayed in front. The enemy occupied a commanding height, on which was planted his artillery, a formidable battery. Ripley conceived the bold design of making an attempt to carry the height, as the only movement that appeared likely to bring the battle to an issue, and on this being communicated to the commander, it was approved. Accordingly, assigning to colonel Miller, the arduous duty of leading the charge, at the head of the twenty-fifth, he resolved to follow with the

twenty-third, the younger regiment. They advanced in column to the perilous charge, but faltered on receiving the first fire; they were again formed, and advancing with a steady and firm step, seized the whole battery. The enemy fled in astonishment and dismay, while the Americans turned their own artillery upon them, and together with their own pieces, posted themselves with great strength. The enemy, stung with shame, and receiving reinforcements, which enabled them to outflank the Americans in both extremes, came on with a furious charge, but were driven back with great loss; they were driven back a second, and a third time, having each time received reinforcements. The Americans were left in quiet possession of the field; it was now midnight, and having been so long engaged in this dreadful combat, they were ordered to retreat; but unfortunately, the trophies of this splendid victory, could not be secured, from the want of the means of conveying the artillery, the carriages having been shattered, and the horses killed. The total loss of the British, amounted to eight hundred and sixty; the loss of the Americans, very little short of the same number. When we consider that the forces engaged, did not exceed four thousand five hundred on the British side, and three thousand on the American, this may rank amongst the most bloody battles any where recorded. The dispro-

portionate loss of the Americans, is to be ascribed to the advantages of the enemy, in the commencement of the action, over the brigade of general Scott; this brigade suffered so much, that several regiments were so thinned, that when united, they scarcely formed more than one. Generals Brown and Scott, were both severely wounded, and the command devolving on general Ripley, he retired to fort Erie. General Porter, of the volunteers, gained great honors for himself and his brave volunteers. Colonel Leavenworth, major Jessup, and a number of other officers, were highly complimented in the orders of the day.

On the fifteenth of August, after the fort had been, for some time infested by general Drummond, with a large force, and after having made his regular approaches, he resolved to attempt to carry it by storm. The assault and defence, were of the same desperate character as the pitched battles before described, and terminated alike to the glory of the American officers and soldiers. By this time, the bravery of the American troops, had made no light impression on these haughty foes. The loss of the British was immense; and general Gaines, who commanded, general Ripley, and other officers, acquired imperishable renown.

Gen. Brown, having recovered from his wounds, on the second of September, resumed the command.

From the time of the unsuccessful assault, both sides were actively engaged; the enemy in erecting batteries, the Americans in completing their defences. The enemy's batteries were becoming every day more formidable to the fort, two of which were within five hundred yards, and a third was rapidly constructing, for the purpose of infilading the American works. A spirited measure was thought of by general Brown, to avert the impending danger. On the seventeenth, a sortie was executed in a gallant style, which could only be equalled by the admirable skill displayed in the formation of the plan. The British were completely surprised; the American troops taking a circuitous route through the woods, came suddenly upon the enemy's flank, and charging in column, took possession of all the enemy's batteries, though not without a severe conflict, and great carnage. The batteries, in two hours, were destroyed. The Americans had to deplore the loss of some gallant officers, among whom were brigadier-general Davis, of the volunteers, colonels Gibson, and Wood, two valuable officers. The loss of the enemy was upwards of eight hundred men. About three hundred Americans were killed and wounded, among the latter general Ripley.

The Wellingtonian "*Invincibles*," after this, thought proper to retire; and accordingly, generals Drummond and De Watteville, broke up their camp

on the night of the twenty-first, and sought safety in the works of Chippewa. About this time, general Izard arrived from Plattsburg with a reinforcement of four hundred men, and placed the security of the post beyond doubt. Considering that nothing could be gained by maintaining his present position, this general, who now assumed the command as the senior officer, removed to the American side, after destroying fort Erie, and ordered his troops into winter-quarters at Buffalo. Thus terminated the campaign of 1814, on the Niagara, in which the enemy was four times beaten in fair and equal combat. The American soldiers had at last retrieved the character of the military, and in the estimation of the country, were placed on a level with the heroes of the navy. The names of Brown, Scott, Ripley, Miller, Porter, Davis, Jessup, Ree, Gibson, Wood, Hindman, Towson, Trimble, will be written in letters of gold, on the arch of American glory.

In the course of the campaign, a considerable part of the English army had arrived from the Garrone ; several regiments marched to the upper provinces, to afford the American soldiers an opportunity of plucking from their brows, the laurels won in Spain and France, under their renowned leader. The greater part of the British troops were retained, however, in the lower province, by sir George Prevost, in order to accomplish a subsequent plan of

operations, which will be detailed in its proper place. The circumstance of general Izard having withdrawn from Plattsburg, with the main body of the troops, left that quarter, much exposed; sir George having concentrated a large body of troops in this neighborhood, with the intention, as it afterwards appeared, of penetrating the state of New-York.

After the army of Niagara had retired into winter quarters, all was quiet with the exception of a handsome affair, in which the Americans were victorious. General Bissell was detached with about nine hundred men, to destroy some military stores, and was met by the marquis of Twedale, with about the same number. After a fair pitched battle, the marquis was soundly drubbed, and precipitately retreated, leaving the American general to execute his orders without further molestation.



## CHAPTER XV.

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### *Capture of Washington—Defence of Baltimore.*

WE return once more to the events of the war on the sea board. The occurrences of 1814, in this quarter, wore a more serious face than during any of the preceding years. Our powerful enemy manifested a fixed determination, of carrying on the war for the purpose of revenge; and being freed from the continental war, her numerous ships, and her armies, were now at her disposal for any other purpose. Advices from the American commissioners, served not a little to depress the hopes of peace.

In the beginning of summer, the enemy arrived off our coast, with several ships of the line and frigates, with a great number of transports. They soon after entered the Chesapeake, and maintained a threatening attitude against the principal cities on the bay. Considerable time, however, elapsed, before any important enterprize was undertaken; but admiral Cockburn was actively engaged, as usual,

in plundering and pilfering the planters. To oppose some check to this atrocious reparee, a flotilla of gun vessels was fitted out by our government, and the command given to commodore Barney. This intrepid veteran, soon made himself so formidable from his rapid movements through creeks and inlets, that the enemy found it necessary to destroy his flotilla. A number of vessels suited to the purpose, were accordingly provided. The commodore, about the first of June, was chased into the Patuxent; here their larger vessels not being able to pursue him, they sent their barges, but which were compelled to sneak off faster than they came. A more formidable squadron of boats, a few days afterwards, compelled the commodore to take refuge on Leonard's creek, where he was closely blockaded, by two frigates. Commodore Barney having received some additional force from Washington, fell down to the mouth of the creek, and choosing his position, began a well directed fire on the British vessels: in two hours, the frigates finding their situation rather uncomfortable, prudently weighed anchor and stood down the Patuxent. Barney embracing this opportunity, ran out of the creek, and ascended the Patuxent.

During the time that the commodore was thus blockaded, a party of the enemy proceeded up the Patuxent, and landing a body of men, took posses-

sion of Benedict and Marlborough, and then courageously attacked the tobacco warehouses and hen-roosts, which were robbed with Cockburnian rapacity. The visit to these villages, first shewed them the practicability of attacking Washington in this quarter, as they would be enabled to approach it within thirty or forty miles, before any suspicions should be entertained of their designs. The year before, considerable alarm had prevailed, lest the enemy would ascend the Potomac in his ships, and attack the city of Washington; but no suspicion of any probable attack in this direction, was entertained. Indeed, it appeared to be the opinion of many, that the American capitol, could scarcely hold out any inducement to them to incur the risk, when but little could be gained. Of this opinion, was the secretary at war, who, it will appear, did not use those precautions necessary to secure the American capitol from the disgrace of being spurned by hostile steps. President Madison, in a council of the heads of department, had determined that at least ten thousand men, should be collected at some point which might be nearly equi-distant from Annapolis, Washington and Baltimore, and could cover all these places. The execution of the plan, was of course left to the Secretary. A new military district being formed, general Winder, in the month of July, was invested with the command, and autho-

rizied by the Secretary, to call out the necessary force. It was soon found that the quota of Pennsylvania militia, and for the greater part, that of Maryland, had failed. No measure was taken by the Secretary, to ensure, at all events, the requisite number in the field. The general busily occupied himself in visiting all the different parts of his district, and in making the necessary arrangements, to meet the enemy at all points. No camp was formed as had been contemplated: all the force to be depended upon, was Stansbury's brigade, then near Baltimore, a body of militia at Annapolis, about one thousand regulars, and the militia of the district of Columbia.

Admiral Cockburn, about the sixteenth of August, ascended the bay with twenty-two sail, besides transports, and was joined by admiral Malcom. About this time, it appears he formed a resolution of attacking Washington. The circumstance of Barney's flotilla having taken shelter in the Patuxent, favored the design of attacking the city by way of Benedict. Accordingly, dividing his force, and sending one detachment up the bay, as if to threaten Baltimore, under sir Peter Parker, and one up the Potomac, under captain Gordon, as if to force fort Washington, he took the road himself first named.

The British land forces debarked at Benedict, on the twenty-first of August, and on the twenty-second

reached Upper Marlborough; and the American flotilla which had ascended as high as this place, was now destroyed, while commodore Barney, according to his orders, joined general Winder with his marines. At this time, the American general had not more than two thousand men, just collected into camp, at a place called the Woodyard. On the twenty-second, he fell back to the Old Fields, where he encamped for the night.

The general might expect to be reinforced in the course of a day or two, by the militia of Baltimore and Annapolis, which, with the volunteers of Georgetown, and its neighborhood, and the regulars, would give him a force of about five thousand men. As the ground was extremely favorable for skirmishing, and irregular fighting, he might harass the enemy on his advance; for his force was by no means sufficient to meet the enemy in open field. On the 23d, the general detached a party, under colonel Scott, for the purpose of watching the movements of the enemy, and harassing him in his advance. Within six miles of the American camp, the enemy was descried marching in column; after firing a few rounds, the detachment retreated, and the enemy advancing three miles further, encamped for the night. Apprehensive of a night attack, the general marched about sun-set into Washington, and encamped near the navy-yard. Early the next

morning, the British were discovered to have taken the road to Bladensburg, having general Winder's force on his left flank, and leaving his communication with the shipping entirely unguarded.

General Stansbury's brigade, about thirteen hundred strong, arrived at this place on the twenty-second, and was joined the next day by the Baltimoreans, under colonel Sterret, about five hundred in number, but much fatigued by a forced march : the colonel was accompanied by the artillery companies of Myers and Magruder, and the light battalion of riflemen under Pinkney, the attorney general, who could fight as well as speak. On the twenty-fourth, about noon, the enemy made his appearance near Bladensburg. The Americans had already posted themselves in the following manner : Stansbury's brigade, was drawn up on the west side of the Western Branch, the artillery posted so as to command the bridge, the riflemen so as to support the artillery ; Sterret's regiment, in an orchard, in the rear of these, and the other troops in the best positions the nature of the ground would admit. General Winder having surveyed this disposition of the troops, which had been made with the assistance of colonel Monroe, approved of them. The general had already posted the marines and seamen on the rising ground, in a position to command the road, in two separate batteries, one under commodore

Barney, the other under captain Miller. In the rear of these, there was a second line of regulars, volunteers, and militia, under general Smith ; there was just time to post these about half a mile in the rear of the first line, when the battle commenced. A strong regiment of Maryland militia, commanded by colonels Beal and Hood, at the same time, took posts on the lengths south of the great road, among the woods, whence they could annoy the approaching enemy. Until this moment the heads of department, with the President, were on the ground, countenancing the arrangements ; but as the growling storm seemed to be drawing nearer and more near, they deemed it proper to retire, as men of the quill merely, should have nothing to do with either hot lead or cold iron.

The reader will now expect an account of a bloody battle, worthy to have decided the fate of the capitol of a great empire : he will expect to hear of horrid carnage, of the dreadful shock of arms, continued from the rising until the setting sun, night closing on the ensanguined plain, and a thousand ghosts shrieking in the hollow wind. Alas ! but few widows or orphans were made this day ; yet many an eye was wet, and many a heart was filled with rage, that so many of our gallant countrymen escaped unhurt. Let us lay no flattering unction to our souls, this day was disgraceful to Columbia.

The enemy, coming in view of the American line, moved in a column to the bridge. The advance under colonel Thornton, received a momentary check from the well served artillery of Myers and Magruder, and from the fire of the riflemen. But rallying his men, the colonel passed the bridge, and then moved forward, and was soon followed by the main body, under general Ross. The American artillery and riflemen were soon after obliged to retreat, while the enemy continued to advance, not a little annoyed by the artillery of major Peters. When the enemy's right approached within musket range of Stansbury's brigade, this brigade broke; all the efforts of the commander, general Winder, and the other officers, could not rally them. They fled in confusion, carrying terror wherever they went. The British now proceeded in column along the road, until they came suddenly and unexpectedly, in view of commodore Barney, who gave them so warm a reception, that they precipitately fell back, leaving the road strewed with dead. They deployed, and pushing out flanking parties, endeavored to gain the American rear; on approaching the battery of captain Miller, they met with a reception as little agreeable as that afforded them by commodore Barney; they continued, however, to send out flanking parties, until both these gallant corps were in danger of being cut off, when they were or-



dered to retreat. The commodore had been severely wounded, and fell into the enemy's hands. Stansbury's brigade, had been ordered to rally on the second line, commanded by general Smith, but on coming to the road which led to Montgomery court-house, they had nearly all taken that direction, and others were dispersed. General Winder, now apprehensive that this line would be outflanked, ordered it to retreat, intending to make another stand nearer the capitol. General Winder rode to the Capitol, and meeting with the President and heads of departments, who were not military heads, on consultation, agreed that a second attempt, since the flight of the great body of the troops was not practicable. General Smith was therefore ordered to march through the city, and take position on the heights of Georgetown.

Meeting with no further resistance, the British general approached the metropolis with about one thousand men, where he arrived about eight o'clock in the evening, while the remainder of the army encamped within a mile or two of the place. The haughty invader was now master of the proud seat of the American government; not a splendid and populous city, but the mere skeleton of a town, consisting of detached groups of houses scattered over an immense plain. The capitol yet unfinished, exhibited a fine specimen of American architecture,

as did the beautiful building intended for the residence of the chief magistrate. These buildings, together with a number of private dwellings, were fired by the ruthless barbarians, who were now masters of the city. The libraries were burnt, as were also the different offices, whence fortunately the archives of the state had been removed, otherwise they would have shared the same fate. This disgraceful act of the British general, will be viewed with abhorrence by the latest posterity. The secretary at war, had already ordered fire to be kindled in the navy-yard, which destroyed public property to an immense amount. The loss of the British was considerable; it is estimated at one thousand: many having deserted, or sunk under the fatigue of their forced march.

It is impossible to describe the deep chagrin and mortification of the Americans, in having their infant metropolis thus barbarously defaced. The wound to their pride was most painful, and in its first paroxysms threatened all the public officers concerned in the affair, with the heaviest displeasure of the people, who felt that the honor of their country had received a stain. The opprobrium finally settled on the secretary at war, general Armstrong, and general Winder; the first at the intimation of the President, withdrew from office, the latter was

tried by court-martial, at his own solicitation, and acquitted.

The enemy retreated to Benedict, on the twenty-fifth, carrying away a considerable booty. In the meanwhile, the naval detachment under captain Gordon, ascended the Potomac, and on the twenty-seventh, approached fort Washington, which was immediately blown up by the officer commanding, without firing a gun. The enemy now meeting with no opposition, passed up safely to Alexandria, which place was put under a heavy contribution.

All the produce, merchandize and shipping, were demanded, and required to be delivered under the threat of destroying the town. With these hard conditions, the citizens were obliged to comply; and the British descended the bay, with a very respectable amount of plunder.

The third division of the invaders, was not so successful. Sir Peter Parker, with a body of sailors and marines, who ascended the Chesapeake, met with a different fortune. Having landed about two hundred of his men, for the purpose of dispersing a body of Maryland militia, near Georgetown Cross-Roads, he was met with a firmness quite unexpected, and after a sharp action, he received a mortal wound, on which his detachment fell back to their ships, losing upwards of thirty in killed and wounded.

The capture of Washington, and the plunder of Alexandria, excited the utmost alarm in all the American cities, but more especially in Baltimore, the nearest to the dreadful scene of destruction and rapacity. The return of its citizen soldiers from the field of Bladensburg, filled the place with consternation and dismay. Some, listening to the apprehensions of the moment, were for making the best terms they could with the enemy at once, in order to save the city from destruction, knowing the deadly antipathy harbored against it by the enemy; but this was manfully rejected. It was resolved to adopt the best measures for defence, the time would admit; and it being now ascertained, that the first idea suggested by their alarm, of the enemy's intention to march immediately from Washington to Baltimore, was groundless; all classes of people engaged with ardor, in the preparations for sheltering their town against the coming tempest. The other cities, particularly Philadelphia and New-York, exhibited the most lively scenes of patriotic exertion in the fortifications and works of defence. The different classes of the population, moved in separate bands, to work on the trenches, to the sound of the most animating music; one day it was the merchants, the next the professional men, the next, the different kinds of mechanics, then the various religious congregations or sects, and then the natu-

ralized citizens of different nations; all these in processions, producing a most affecting spectacle of festivity, and joyful exertion, to provide against the impending danger. It was all one mind, one voice, and one interest. These are the lovely fruits of liberty, equal rights, and a paternal government, not of capricious men, but of wise and just laws.

The British forces in the Chesapeake and its waters, assembled under the commander in chief, admiral Cochrane, and now composed a most formidable armada of more than fifty sail, having on board more than five thousand land troops, under general Ross. On the tenth of September, the anxiously expected enemy appeared, at the mouth of the Patapsco, fourteen miles below Baltimore. The defence of this flourishing and populous city, was assigned to major-general Samuel Smith, and brigadier-general Stricker, both of the Maryland militia, and both revolutionary veterans. The latter, at his request, was detached to meet the enemy at his landing, near North Point. The general accordingly marched with a part of his brigade, and several additional corps of artillery, cavalry and riflemen; in the whole, about three thousand men. A detachment was ordered to move forward, in order to watch the enemy. On the evening of the eleventh, the troops reached their place of destination, seven miles below the city.

Early in the morning, the videttes brought information that the enemy was debarking under cover of his gun-boats; on this, the general took position at the junction of the different roads leading from the city, resting his right on Bear creek, his left covered by a swamp, and in this situation awaited the enemy. Major Heath, who had been sent forward to skirmish with the enemy, now retired before the advancing columns of general Ross. This general, while reconnoitring at the head of his troops, received a rifle ball in the breast, which at once put an end to his career. His fall was a severe loss to the British army, and for some time checked its progress. The command devolving on colonel Brooks, he moved with the whole force, little short of seven thousand men, and commenced the engagement by firing rockets; a brisk cannonade was opened from the artillery of captain Montgomery, which was warmly returned by the enemy, and the action soon became general. The American commander maintained his ground an hour and an half against the superior numbers of the British. Unfortunately, however, the regiment stationed on the left gave way, and his flank became exposed, which compelled him, sooner than if this had not happened, to retire upon his reserve, a regiment posted half a mile in the rear. This being effected, he took up his march and retired to the entrench-

ments thrown up on the rising ground, to the east of the city, where he was joined by generals Winder and Douglass, with a brigade of Virginia militia, under captain Burd's United States' dragoons. In this well fought battle, there were not more than fourteen hundred men on the American side during the hottest of the fight, having been diminished by the reserve, and by the unfortunate panic which seized the troops that gave way. The loss on the American side was about one hundred and eighty in killed and wounded: the British loss was at least five hundred.

The brigades under general Stansbury and Forman, the seamen and marines under commodore Rodgers, the Pennsylvania volunteers, the Baltimore and marine artillery, manned the entrenchments and heavy batteries. Thus posted, they courageously awaited the approach of the enemy, who had not thought proper to push forward after the battle of North Point. The next morning, the hostile army appeared within two miles in front of the American lines, inclined to the York and Harford roads, as if to reach the town in that direction, but observing that generals Stricker and Winder, adapted their movements so as to counteract this design, it approached within a mile, as if to attack in front.

In the midst of these important land operations, a powerful attack was made on fort M'Henry, which commands the approach of the city by water. The defence of the place was entrusted to major Armistead, together with several companies of Baltimore artillerists, supported by a body of infantry and marines. Two batteries to the right, were manned by sailors, the one under lieutenant Newcomb, the other under lieut. Webster. The bombarding vessels, placing themselves out of the reach of the guns of the fort, continued to throw shells during the whole day and night, with very little interruption, while those in the fort were compelled to remain entirely inactive. Once, indeed, they approached sufficiently near for the guns of the fort to be brought to bear, which soon compelled them to retire. During the night, several of their barges were discovered approaching the shore, and were immediately attacked from the batteries to the right, and one of them destroyed.

By this time, on consultation between the land and naval commanders, it was mutually agreed, that the capture of the city was impracticable; it was therefore resolved to make all convenient haste out of the way. The retreat of the army was commenced under cover of a dark and tempestuous night, and the next morning had entirely disappeared from before the lines, and were immediately



pursued by general Winder, who captured a few stragglers; colonel Brook re-embarked his troops in safety.

Thus gloriously terminated the short but eventful siege of this noble city, pre-consigned by a ferocious enemy, to pillage and conflagration. The citizen soldiers who thus gallantly defended their homes and families, obtained the reward of their country's approbation. New life and spirit were awakened in all the cities exposed to the approach of hostile footsteps, and the fortunate defence of Baltimore, in some measure served to wash out the foul pollution of the seat of government. We had, however, to lament the fall of many of our gallant countrymen; to them a monument has been decreed, and distant ages will continue to read on the sculptured stone, the names of col. Lowry Donaldson, Clagget, and of Clemm, with gratitude and veneration.

## CHAPTER XVI.

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*Glorious events of the War—British defeated at Plattsburg—Repulsed at New-Orleans—Peace.*

THE nation was consoled by the noble defence of Baltimore, for its former disgraces, and joy was visible in every countenance, while every village and city was lighted up with such brilliant illuminations, as almost rivalled the noon-day sun. The candles of these illuminations had not been burnt out, when a new cause of rejoicing was seen, like the Aurora Borealis, to brighten the northern sky. It was a splendid double victory, achieved at once on the water and on the land.

We have already mentioned the departure of general Izard from Plattsburgh, and that general M'Comb was left in command, with little better than fourteen hundred regulars, many of whom were invalids. Towards the latter end of August, sir George Prevost had collected an army of as many thousands, chiefly veteran troops, with a view, as it

has been since ascertained, of penetrating to the Hudson, and cutting off the Northern from the Southern States, and thus bring about a severance of the Union. A mighty scheme, but which could only originate in an extreme ignorance of the genius and character of the American people. Sir George, about the first of September, past into the American territory, while at the same time, a squadron under captain Downie, entered Lake Champlain.

General M<sup>c</sup>Comb, and commodore M<sup>c</sup>Donough, were not idle in making every preparation, to oppose the most effectual resistance, to this formidable enemy. A body of militia, under general Moers, of New-York, and also another from Vermont, under general Strong, added to the strength of the place, while the militia called in from all quarters, were daily arriving. The naval commander was equally industrious; as an instance of the wonderful exertion made on this important occasion, he added a brig to his force, before greatly inferior to the enemy's, in the short period of twenty days, the timber of which was actually growing on the lake, when the work was begun. The females and children, and every thing valuable that could be removed, were sent out of the way, and every person capable of bearing arms, were provided with muskets to aid in repelling the invaders of their altars and firesides. Even boys were armed, and forming them-

selves into a company, were found efficient on the day of battle. General Moers, col. Appling, major Wool, and captain Sproal, were sent forward at the head of detachments, to meet the advancing foe. They contributed not a little in retarding and embarrassing the movements of the enemy, and gave proof that they would not be found wanting in the hour of severer trial. It was not until the tenth, that sir George reached Plattsburg, and took possession of the village, while the Americans retreated to their defences on the opposite side of the river Saranac, having taken up the planks of the bridges. Here the British remained almost inactive for several days, waiting, no doubt, the arrival of their squadron, intended to capture the American ships. Numerous skirmishes, however, occurred daily.

On the eleventh, early in the morning, the look-out boats of commodore M'Donough, at last espied the approach of captain Downie, in order of battle. His line consisted of the frigate *Constance*, thirty-nine guns: the brig *Linnet*, of sixteen guns; the sloops *Chub* and *Finch*, eleven guns each, and thirteen galleys, five of which carried two, and the others one gun each. The American squadron consisted of the *Saratoga*, twenty-six guns; the *Eagle*, twenty guns; the *Ticonderoga*, seventeen guns; the *Preble*, seven guns, and ten galleys, six of which had two guns, the others one. It lay moored in line in the

bay of Plattsburg, having on each flank a division of gun-boats. At ten o'clock, captain Downie ranged his ships directly abreast of the American line, within three hundred yards; the *Confiance* opposed to the *Saratoga*, and the *Linnet* to the *Eagle*. Dreadful was the thundering battle which now ensued: havoc and death ruled the frightful fray. About ten, the *Eagle* changed her position, for one conceived by her commander to be more favorable; but the *Saratoga* maintained her perilous position, opposed to a ship of vastly superior force; nearly all the guns of this vessel, upon whose success hung the fate of the battle, being dismounted, an effort was made to swing her round, that her other broadside might be brought to bear. Providence favored the attempt; the same experiment was tried by the *Confiance*, but without success; on-perceiving this, she was compelled to strike. The vessel opposed to the *Eagle* had already struck, and drifted out of the line. Three of the galleys had gone to the bottom of the Lake, the others effected their escape, although heavy laden with disgrace. Thus after an action of two hours, a second British squadron was compelled to humble itself before the strength of American freedom and justice.

This sublime naval combat, took place in the view of both armies; the hearts of all were filled with deep anxiety for the result. On beholding the

consummation, the British were struck with horror and grief, while the Americans were elated beyond the expression of words. The Americans had one hundred and fifty-eight killed and wounded. Of the enemy, two hundred were killed and wounded, among the former, captain Downie. The number of men engaged on the American side, was eight hundred and twenty; on the British, one thousand and fifty; so that the number of prisoners alone, exceeded the number of the Americans. The Americans had eighty-four guns, the British ninety-five.

At the commencement of the engagement, the British bombs on shore, were opened on the American works, and together with rockets, continued to be thrown until night. In the midst of this, an attempt was made by the enemy, in three divisions, to pass the Saranac; but they were completely defeated by the United States regular troops and militia. One of these, at the ford above the village, was repelled by militia and volunteers, after a very hot engagement, and with great loss to the enemy. At dusk, they withdrew their artillery, and at nine in the evening, having sent off all their baggage, they retired with the utmost precipitation. The next morning, Plattsburg was found entirely evacuated. The defeat of these haughty invaders was complete; they left behind them all their sick and wounded, together with immense quantities of military stores and

camp equipage. They were immediately pursued, but having already had the start by many hours, none but stragglers could be overtaken. Numerous deserters, however, came over to the American side; in one body, four hundred men, preceded by music, came into head-quarters. The loss of the enemy, in killed, wounded and missing, in this mighty expedition, which was to have shaken the American republic to its centre, was upwards of three thousand, and almost equal to the American force.

The signal repulse and defeat of the British, as might be expected, produced the utmost joy in the United States. All parties united in giving vent to their feelings for the glorious occurrence. The Prince Regent, deeply chagrined for the defeat of his squadron on Lake Erie, contrived a curious mode of soothing the mind of his faithful Britons, and of proving to the world the superior prowess of his majesty's ship. On a small piece of water in Hyde Park, called the Serpentine river, half as large as a mill-pond, he ordered two fleets to be constructed, and launched upon their destined element, one of which bore the red cross, the other the stripes of Columbia. Now came on the tug of war; the big guns roared; far flashed the red artillery; one by one, the Americans yield to the invincible Britannia, and some even went down to the bottom

of the pool. Now rose the shouts of the victorious Englishmen, crouding around the pond of their glory, while the frogs returned the sound with responsive croakings. The city illuminations which took place on this astonishing event, were soon followed by the news of the surrender of the British squadron on Lake Champlain.



## CHAPTER XVII.

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### *Defence of New-Orleans—Brilliant termination of the War.*

ON the meeting of Congress, the President laid before them the checquered scenes of the past year. The brilliant victories on the Niagara frontier, where the enemy was repeatedly beaten in pitched battles; the distressing capture of Washington, and the barbarous circumstances attending; the signal repulse of the enemy from Baltimore, and the recent victory at Plattsburg. Upon the whole, the campaign of this year, was calculated to awaken the finest feelings of national glory. He at the same time communicated the hopelessness of the negotiation for a peace, as the enemy, instead of coming to an arrangement, had been continually procrastinating, and had at last, when brought to the point, given their *sine qua non*, which was entirely inadmissible. The United States was required to surrender up a large portion of their territory, and to

retire from those lakes, which had witnessed their victories.

When this was communicated, a general sentiment of indignation prevailed through the House. Party spirit had already in a great measure subsided, owing to the late conduct of Great Britain. Her conduct had been so glaringly and wantonly unjust, that no one could stand up as her advocate. It was therefore unanimously agreed, to unite in the most efficacious manner, for the defence of the country. The question as to the change of the seat of government was agitated, but determined that it should continue where it then was.

The thanks of Congress, together with medals and other rewards, were voted to the heroes of the last campaign on Niagara and at Plattsburg; while the corporations of the different cities, and the legislatures of the states, were not behind in expressing their gratitude. The conduct of the British excited in Europe universal indignation; the shameful destruction of the monuments of the arts and learning, evinced a barbarity which could only be expected from savages.

Very soon after the meeting of Congress, news from the southward awakened the attention and the anxiety of all Americans. Intelligence from that quarter, left no doubt of an intended invasion of Louisiana. General Jackson, so distinguished for

his victories over the Creeks, was appointed a major-general, and the command of the southern district assigned to him. In the summer of 1814, he fixed his head-quarters at Mobile, where he assembled a respectable force of regulars, volunteers and militia, the two last from Tennessee chiefly.

On the fifteenth of September, a squadron of the enemy, consisting of two frigates and two gun brigs, appeared before fort Bowyer, at Mobile Point, then garrisoned by major Lawrence, with about one hundred and twenty men. A land force, under captain Woodbine, consisting of about one hundred marines, and four hundred Indians, under colonel Nichols, invested the fort by land. The fort withstood this combined attack, with the utmost firmness; the land troops were compelled to retire, and the fire was so well directed against the British vessels, that they were compelled to cut their cables and hasten out of the way, but not without the loss of their flag ship, which was set on fire and blown up. The loss of the assailants was believed to be very serious; on the American side it was trifling.

The conduct of the British in Florida, at this time, was such as could not be passed over unnoticed. They were in the habit of openly making use of the Spanish territory, for the purpose of carrying on their hostile schemes against the United States. The Spanish authority seemed to have

been put down. At Pensacola and St. Augustine, the English had complete possession, and from those places distributed presents to the Indians, to stir them up against the Americans. They also, from this foothold, prepared their land and naval expeditions against our territory. This had been insupportable, and would be, if permitted, highly dangerous to our safety. General Jackson having in vain remonstrated with the Spanish governor, resolved, on his own responsibility, to have recourse to more effectual means. In the beginning of November, he appeared before Pensacola with about 3,000 men; destroyed their forts, chased off the British, and taught the dons a lesson which they would scarcely require to be repeated. He then returned with his force to Mobile.

It was not long after his arrival at that place, before he was called upon to display his military talents on a more important theatre. The threatening clouds which had been gathering for some time seemed now ready to burst. The British fleet after leaving the Chesapeake, had gone chiefly to the Bermudas, and every day brought some account of important preparations for some enterprize against the Southern States. The mighty armament at length made its appearance in the Gulf of Mexico, consisting of sixty sail, attended by a vast number of barges and transports. The foe was invited by

the opulence of New-Orleans, and its defenceless state; here they anticipated an easy and profitable conquest. There remains but little doubt that the British government intended to hold Louisiana permanently, and by the possession of that important country, render herself mistress of the continent. This magnificent scheme, under Divine Providence, was frustrated in the most signal manner.

General Jackson hastened to New-Orleans with his brave Tennesseans, and his regulars, where he arrived on the second of December. Not a moment was to be lost; the enemy was at the door, and no preparation had been made for him. In fact, every arrangement for defence was made at this late hour; the country had thus far been exempted from the visitations of war; was unarmed, and in every way unprepared. He superintended, in person, all the works which the time would allow him to construct, and reviewed the different corps of militia and volunteers of the city and country. The slaves were put in requisition, and the inhabitants were called upon to contribute all the aid in their power. The situation of the country is highly favorable for defence against an enemy invading by sea, provided sufficient time be allowed to fortify it. It is a low flat tract of land, accessible only by the Mississippi, or through the lake, in shallow water. Excepting on banks of the river, where there is a

narrow tract of dry land, probably not more than a mile in width, there is nothing but swamps and morasses, penetrated by deep natural canals, which are navigable for barges from the lakes, or from the sea to the ridges of dry land.

On the twelfth of December, the enemy's fleet appeared in the bay of St. Louis, and the American flotilla of gun-boats commanded by lieutenant Jones, then lying at Cat's Island, ascended the bay to take a position more favorable for watching the enemy's movements. Two days afterwards, the gun-boats were attacked by forty launches and barges, manned by at least a thousand men, and after a most heroic resistance, in which many of the enemy were destroyed, the gun-boats surrendered. The danger now was at hand; general Jackson ordered martial law to be proclaimed, and the whole of the militia was ordered out on duty. The legislature then in session, made appropriations, and an embargo was laid on all vessels then in port. No exertion that could be made was omitted. On the twenty-first, General Carrol arrived from Tennessee, with four thousand men, many of them were however, not armed, and others badly. About this time, the city received a new accession of force, from the arrival of the Barratarians, to take part in the defence of the country. These people had established themselves on some high land in the lake of Barrataria,

and as it is said, practised depredations on the commerce of all nations ; certain it is, that they openly braved the revenue laws, and had been outlawed as smugglers. To their leader, La Fitte, the most tempting offers were made by the British, to induce him to join in the projected invasion. But instead of acceding to these offers, he immediately communicated the whole affair to Governor Claiborne, who was so much delighted with this trait of magnanimity, that he pledged himself to procure a pardon for him and his band, provided they would join in the defence ; they accordingly came and were received.

The capture of the squadron of gun-boats, left the way open to attack on the side of the lakes. It was therefore necessary to close all the canals or bayous, which would enable the enemy to pass through the swamp, and reach the strip of dry land on the banks of the river. This important duty was intrusted to general Villere, a native of the country, and well acquainted with the secret passages. Unfortunately the guard stationed at the entrance of the bayou Bienvenue, were captured, and proceeding secretly, they reached the dry land, and emerging from the forest arrived at the bank of the mighty river, about three o'clock, P. M. on the 23d of December. This force consisting of four thousand men, instead of moving directly on to the city, halted to prepare

their meal, and to move towards the city at their leisure, as the city was now in their estimation, entirely in their power.

Intelligence of this unexpected and alarming march of the British was brought to general Jackson by major Villere who had been taken a prisoner, but who seized an opportunity to make his escape. The general, with that promptitude which distinguishes the great commander, hesitated not a moment on the course to be pursued. He immediately issued orders for the troops under the command of general Coffee, stationed some miles up the river, to march to the place of rendezvous, and giving orders for all the other corps to be collected with the utmost speed, he put himself at the head of the regulars, the city militia, and the battalion of coloured troops, and advanced a few miles below the city, where he halted to give time for the remainder of his forces to join him. The schooner *Caroline* was at the same time ordered to drop down the river. General Jackson being joined by the other troops, now pursued his march, but it was some time after dark, before he came near the British encampment. General Coffee with his riflemen was placed on the left near the woods, while the other troops, led by Jackson in person, attacked in front. The signal was given by a broadside from the *Caroline*, which did great execution, as the



British were gathered around their fires, and entirely off their guard. The attack of the Americans in front, and Coffee turning their right, penetrated even into the camp. The enemy were at first struck with consternation, but after some time, being rallied, they formed and returned the fire of the Americans. A thick fog, which about this time arose, and Jackson considering it imprudent to continue the fight any longer, sounded a retreat: a company of city riflemen, however, missing their way, fell in with a body of the enemy, and were taken prisoners. The general retired to a piece of ground two miles nearer the city, where there formerly had been a mill race; this position offered considerable advantages, in the speedy creation of defences, as it would at once answer all the purposes of a ditch. The loss of the Americans in this bold and well advised attack, was twenty-four killed, one hundred and fifteen wounded, and seventy-four missing. The British loss was estimated at forty-six killed, one hundred and sixty-seven wounded, and sixty-four missing. This battle, it is now universally conceded, saved the city of New-Orleans, for had the British marched the next morning, it would have been utterly impossible to have withstood them. Fortunately, all the prisoners who fell into their hands, concurred in magnifying the American force to ten or fifteen thousand men.

In the mean time, a prodigious effort was made to fortify the American position. Bales of cotton were used to expedite the erection of the breast-work. In a few days the line extended about a thousand yards to the swamp, which was there impassible. A swell in the river, somewhat unusual at this season of the year, enabled them to make an opening in the levee, and to flood the ground in front of the line, and when the water subsided, a sufficient quantity was left in the ditch. On the opposite bank of the river some works were also constructed, and batteries erected. On the twenty-sixth, the British directed hot shot at the Caroline, who from her position, annoyed them exceedingly. They succeeded in blowing her up. Two days afterwards, they made a general attack on the American lines, with bombs, rockets, and artillery, but after a fair experiment, they retired in the evening with considerable loss. On the first of January, having, during the night, erected batteries within a few hundred yards of the American works, they made another attack, and were compelled once more to retire, with the loss of seventy men. The brig Louisiana, had taken the place of the Caroline, and greatly incommoded the British. On the fourth, generals Thomas and Adair, arrived at the head of two thousand five hundred militia from Kentucky. On the sixth, the British were re-inforced

by general Lambert, their whole force under general Packenham was little short of ten thousand men, and it was now resolved to force the American lines by main strength. These were manned by heterogeneous materials; men of different countries and languages, and not all armed, particularly the militia last arrived.

In the night of the seventh, the enemy, with infinite labor succeeded in widening and deepening, the swamp drain by which they had approached the river, so as to get a sufficient number of their boats into the Mississippi. During the whole night, from the movements of the British camp, it was evident that something unusual was forward, and there was every reason to believe that a general attack had been resolved upon. With the appearance of light, these conjectures were fully confirmed; the whole British force was seen to advance in columns, with a steady and determined appearance, many of them carrying ladders and fascines. The utmost silence pervaded the American lines, while the British were permitted to approach within the range of grape, when the artillery opened upon them a tremendous fire, and as their columns were entirely uncovered, and on a level plain, they were mown down with prodigious slaughter. They still, however, courageously moved forward, closing up the broken ranks with fresh troops. But when they came within

reach of the musket and deadly rifle, the whole American line was one sheet of fire. It was in vain that the British officers endeavored to urge forward their troops to certain slaughter: the bravest of them fell at the head of their columns. They at last shrunk from the contest, in which they saw nothing but universal ruin. The columns broke, and fled in the utmost confusion. A few detachments only could reach the ditch, where they were devoted to sure destruction. A few platoons, led by colonel Renee, reached the ditch, and clambered up the rampart; but in an instant not one of them was left alive. The repulse was universal. The astonished Britons stood aghast for a few minutes, when in a fit of phrenzy they made a second effort, but with the same unfortunate result. They were now rolled away from the field, which was left covered with the slain; a most shocking and pitiable scene of carnage. The commander in chief, general Packenham, fell almost at the commencement of the action; soon after him, generals Kean and Gibbs were dangerously wounded, and general Lambert retired from the field with the fragments of the army, the flower of the British forces, accustomed to conquer in the wars of Europe. Two thousand men fell in this ill-fated assault, which will be remembered while history lasts.

On the opposite side of the river, things were not so brilliant. The British had crossed over under colonel Thornton, and marched to the attack of the entrenchments. The reception was very different from that of the opposite side. The militia of the state, with some of the Kentuckians, under general Morgan, after one fire retreated, leaving the batteries in the hands of the British. The enemy had been enabled to outflank them, in consequence of the giving way of a battalion of Louisiana militia. The loss of the Americans on both sides of the river, did not exceed twenty killed and forty wounded.

The British were now only studious of effecting their retreat. On the eighteenth, they were discovered to have quietly descended the bayou during the night, leaving a great number of wounded officers and privates. The inhabitants were filled with joy for this providential deliverance, and hailed Jackson as their deliverer. They poured forth their gratitude in public thanksgiving for this signal escape from a foe, who would have doomed their city to pillage and destruction. The utmost tenderness and humanity were exhibited by all the inhabitants, to the unfortunate victims of war, who required the assistance of their fellow creatures. Every house was a hospital for the reception of the wounded; and the benevolent sisters the nuns, were ac-

tively engaged in pouring oil on their wounds, and in discharging all the offices of Christian charity.

In a few days afterwards, it was discovered that the enemy had entirely disappeared, and the state of Louisiana, then the latest star of the confederation, shone with beauteous lustre.

The British proceeded, soon after, to attack fort Bowyer, and being able to bring an overwhelming force against it, they took possession of the place. Not however, to retain it long, as the news of peace soon after caused it to be restored to the Americans.

This event, so welcome to all, at last arrived. It was concluded between the British and American commissioners, on the twenty-fourth of December, 1814, and ratified by the Prince Regent on the 28th, and by the President and Senate, on the eighteenth of February, 1815. All parties in the U. States heartily rejoiced. America was victorious in the struggle; the enemy had been signally vanquished both by sea and land; and although the change which had occurred in Europe, had rendered it unnecessary to insist in the treaty on any provisions against future abuses, the manly resistance of this country had convinced Great Britain and the whole world, that America was not to be insulted with impunity.

## APPENDIX.

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### TREATY OF PEACE.

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JAMES MADISON,

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

*To all and singular to whom these presents shall come, greeting :*

WHEREAS, a treaty of peace and amity between the United States of America and his Britannic majesty was signed at Ghent, on the twenty-fourth day of December, one thousand eight hundred and fourteen, by plenipotentiaries respectively appointed for that purpose ; and the said treaty having been, by and with the advice and consent of the senate of the United States, duly accepted, ratified, and confirmed, on the seventeenth day of February,

one thousand eight hundred and fifteen ; and ratified copies thereof having been exchanged, agreeably to the tenor of the said treaty, which is in the words following to wit :

TREATY OF PEACE AND AMITY

BETWEEN

*His Britannic majesty and the U. States of America.*

His Britannic majesty and the United States of America, desirous of terminating the war which has unhappily subsisted between the two countries, and of restoring, upon principles of perfect reciprocity, peace, friendship, and good understanding between them, have, for that purpose, appointed their respective plenipotentiaries, that is to say : his Britannic majesty, on his part, has appointed the right honorable James Lord Gambier, late admiral of the white, now admiral of the red squadron of his majesty's fleet, Henry Golbourn, Esquire, a member of the imperial parliament, and under secretary of state, and William Adams, Esquire, doctor of civil laws ; and the president of the United States, by and with the advice and consent of the senate thereof, has appointed John Quincy Adams, James A. Bayard, Henry Clay, Jonathan Russel, and Albert Gallatin, citizens of the United States, who, after a reciprocal communication of their re-



spective full powers, have agreed upon the following articles :

## ARTICLE I.

There shall be a firm and universal peace between his Britannic majesty and the United States, and between their respective countries, territories, cities, towns, and people, of every degree, without exception of places or person. All hostilities, both by sea and land, shall cease as soon as this treaty shall have been ratified by both parties, as hereinafter mentioned. All territory, places and possessions whatsoever, taken by either party from the other, during the war, or which may be taken after the signing of this treaty, excepting only the islands hereinafter mentioned, shall be restored without delay, and without causing any destruction, or carrying away any of the artillery or other public property, originally captured in the said forts or places, and which shall remain therein upon the exchange of the ratifications of this treaty, or any slaves or other private property. And all archives, records, deeds, and papers, either of a public nature, or belonging to private persons, which, in the course of the war, may have fallen into the hands of the officers of either party, shall be, as far as may be practicable, forthwith restored and deli-

vered to the proper authorities and persons to whom they respectively belong. Such of the islands in the bay of Passamaquoddy as are claimed by both parties, shall remain in the possession of the party in whose occupation they may be, at the time of the exchange of the ratifications of this treaty, until the decision, respecting the title to the said islands, shall have been made in conformity with the fourth article of this treaty. No disposition made by this treaty, as to such possessions of the islands and territories claimed by both parties, shall, in any manner whatever, be construed to affect the right of them.

## ARTICLE II.

Immediately after the ratification of this treaty, by both parties, as hereinafter mentioned, orders shall be sent to the armies, squadrons, officers, subjects and citizens, of the two powers, to cease from all hostilities. And to prevent all causes of complaint which might arise on account of the prizes which may be taken at sea, after the said ratifications of this treaty, it is reciprocally agreed, that all vessels and effects which may be taken after the space of twelve days from the said ratifications, upon all parts of the coast of North America, from the latitude of twenty-three degrees north, to the la-

titude of fifty degrees north, and as far eastward in the Atlantic ocean, as the thirty-sixth degree of west longitude from the meridian of Greenwich, shall be restored on each side; that the time shall be thirty days in all other parts of the Atlantic ocean, north of the equinoctial line or equator; and the same time for the British and Irish channels, for the gulf of Mexico, and all parts of the West-Indies; forty days for the North Seas, for the Baltic, and for all parts of the Mediterranean; sixty days for the Atlantic ocean, south of the equator, as far as the latitude of the Cape of Good Hope; ninety days for every other part of the world, south of the equator; and one hundred and twenty days, for all other parts of the world, without exception.

### ARTICLE III.

All prisoners of war taken on either side, as well by land as by sea, shall be restored as soon as practicable, after the ratifications of this treaty, as hereinafter mentioned, on their paying their debts which they may have contracted during their captivity. The two contracting parties respectively engage to discharge in specie, the advances which may have been made by the other for the sustenance and maintenance of such prisoners.

## ARTICLE IV.

Whereas, it was stipulated by the second article in the treaty of peace, of one thousand seven hundred and eighty-three, between his Britannic majesty and the United States of America, that the boundary of the United States should comprehend all islands within twenty leagues of any part of the shores of the United States, and lying between lines to be drawn due east from the points where the aforesaid boundaries, between Nova Scotia on the one part, and East Florida on the other, shall respectively touch the bay of Fundy and the Atlantic ocean, excepting such islands as now are, or heretofore have been, within the limits of Nova Scotia; and whereas, the several islands in the bay of Passamaquoddy, which is part of the bay of Fundy, and the island of Grand Menan in the said bay of Fundy, are claimed by the United States, as being comprehended within their aforesaid boundaries, which said islands are claimed as belonging to his Britannic majesty, as having been, at the time of, and previous to, the aforesaid treaty of one thousand seven hundred and eighty-three, within the limits of the province of Nova Scotia. In order, therefore, finally to decide upon these claims, it is agreed that they shall be referred to two commissioners, to be appointed in the following manner, viz: one com-

missioner shall be appointed by his Britannic majesty, and one by the President of the United States, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate thereof, and the said two commissioners so appointed, shall be sworn impartially to examine and decide upon the said claims, according to such evidence as shall be laid before them, on the part of his Britannic majesty and of the United States respectively. The said commissioners shall meet at St. Andrews, in the province of New-Brunswick, and shall have power to adjourn to such other place or places as they shall think fit. The said commissioners shall, by a declaration or report under their hands and seals, decide to which of the two contracting parties the several islands aforesaid do respectively belong, in conformity with the true intent of the said treaty of peace, of one thousand seven hundred and eighty-three. And if the said commissioners shall agree in their decision, both parties shall consider such decision final and conclusive. It is further agreed, that in the event of the two commissioners differing upon all or any of the matters so referred to them, or in the event of both or either of the said commissioners refusing, or declining, or wilfully omitting, to act as such, they shall make, jointly or separately a report or reports, as well to the government of his Britannic majesty as to that of the United States, stating in detail the points on which they differ, and

the grounds upon which their respective opinions have been formed, or the grounds upon which they, or either of them, have so refused, declined, or omitted to act. And his Britannic majesty, and the government of the United States, hereby agree to refer the report or reports of the said commissioners, to some friendly sovereign or state, to be then named for that purpose, and who shall be requested to decide on the differences which may be stated in the said report or reports, or upon the report of one commissioner, together with the grounds upon which the other commissioner shall have refused, declined, or omitted to act, as the case may be. And if the commissioner so refusing, declining, or omitting to act, shall also wilfully omit to state the grounds upon which he has so done, in such manner that the said statement may be referred to such friendly sovereign or state, together with the report of such other commissioner, then such sovereign or state shall decide, *ex parte*, upon the said report alone. And his Britannic majesty and the government of the United States, engage to consider the decision of such friendly sovereign or state, to be final and conclusive, on all the matters so referred.

## ARTICLE V.

Whereas, neither that point of the highlands lying due north, from the source of the river St. Croix,

and designated in the former treaty of peace, between the two powers of the north-west angle of Nova Scotia, nor the north westernmost head of Connecticut river, has yet been ascertained; and whereas, that part of the boundary line between the dominions of the two powers which extends from the source of the river St. Croix, directly north, to the above mentioned north-west angle of Nova Scotia, thence along the said highlands, which divide those rivers that empty themselves into the river St Lawrence, from those which fall into the Atlantic ocean, to the north-westernmost head of Connecticut river, thence down along the middle of that river to the forty-fifth degree of north latitude; thence by a line due west on said latitude, until it strikes the river Iroquois or Cataraguay, has not yet been surveyed: it is agreed, that, for these several purposes, two commissioners shall be appointed, sworn, and authorised to act exactly in the manner directed, with respect to those mentioned in the next preceding article, unless otherwise specified in the present article. The said commissioners shall have power to adjourn to such other place or places as they shall think fit. The commissioners shall have power to ascertain and determine the points above mentioned, in conformity with the provisions of the said treaty of peace of one thousand seven hundred and eighty-three, and shall cause the boundary

aforesaid, from the source of the river St. Croix to the river Iroquois or Cataraguay, to be surveyed and marked according to the said provisions. The said commissioners shall make a map of the said boundary, and annex it to a declaration under their hands and seals, certifying it to be a true map of the said boundary, and particularizing the latitude and longitude of the north-west angle of Nova Scotia, of the north-westernmost head of Connecticut river, and of such other points of the said boundary as they may deem proper. And both parties agree to consider such map and declaration as finally and conclusively fixing the said boundary. And, in the event of the said two commissioners differing, or both, or either of them refusing, declining, or wilfully omitting to act, such reports, declarations or statements, shall be made by them, or either of them, and such reference to a friendly sovereign or state, shall be made, in all respects, as in the latter part of the fourth article is contained, and in as full a manner as if the same was herein repeated.

## ARTICLE VI.

Whereas, by the former treaty of peace, that portion of the boundary of the United States, from the point where the forty-fifth degree of north latitude strikes the river Iroquois or Cataraguay to the lake Superior, was declared to be “along the middle of



said river into lake Ontario, through the middle of said lake until it strikes the communication by water, between that lake and lake Erie, through the middle of said lake until it arrives at the water communication into lake Huron, thence through the middle of said lake to the communication between that lake and lake Superior." And whereas doubts have arisen what was the middle of the said river, lakes and water communications, and whether certain islands, lying in the same, were within the dominions of his Britannic majesty, or of the United States: In order, therefore, finally to decide these doubts, they shall be referred to two commissioners, to be appointed, sworn and authorized, to act exactly in the manner directed, with respect to those mentioned in the next preceding article, unless otherwise specified in this present article. The said commissioners shall meet, in the first instance, at Albany, in the state of New-York, and shall have power to adjourn to such other place or places as they shall think fit. The said commissioners shall, by a report or declaration, under their hands and seals, designate the boundary through the said river, lakes and water communications, and decide to which of the two contracting parties the several islands, lying within the said rivers, lakes and water communications, do respectively belong, in conformity with the true intent of the said treaty of one

thousand seven hundred and eighty-three. And both parties agree to consider such designation and decision as final and conclusive. And in the event of the said two commissioners differing, or both, or either of them refusing, declining, or wilfully omitting to act, such reports, declarations or statements, shall be made by them, or either of them, and such reference to a friendly sovereign or state shall be made in all respects as in the latter part of the fourth article is contained, and in as full a manner as if the same was herein repeated.

## ARTICLE VII.

It is further agreed, that the said two last mentioned commissioners, after they shall have executed the duties assigned to them in the preceding article, shall be, and they are hereby authorized, upon their oaths, impartially to fix and determine, according to the true intent of the said treaty of peace, of one thousand seven hundred and eighty-three, that part of the boundary between the dominions of the two powers, which extends from the water communication between lake Huron and lake Superior, to the most north-western point of the lake of the Woods; to decide to which of the two parties the several islands lying in the lakes, water communications and rivers, forming the said boundary, do respectively belong, in conformity with the true intent of

the said treaty of peace, of one thousand seven hundred and eighty-three; and to cause such parts of the said boundary as require it, to be surveyed and marked. The said commissioners shall, by a report or declaration under their hands and seals, designate the boundary aforesaid, state their decision on the points thus referred to them, and particularize the latitude and longitude of the most north-western point of the lake of the Woods, and of such other parts of the said boundary as they may deem proper. And both parties agree to consider such designation and decision as final and conclusive. And in the event of the said two commissioners differing, or both, or either of them refusing, declining, or wilfully omitting to act, such reports, declarations, or statements, shall be made by them, or either of them, and such reference to a friendly sovereign or state, shall be made in all respects, as in the latter part of the fourth article is contained, and in as full a manner as if the same was herein repeated.

### ARTICLE VIII.

The several boards of the two commissioners mentioned in the four preceding articles, shall respectively have power to appoint a secretary, and to employ such surveyors or other persons as they shall judge necessary. Duplicates of all their respective reports, declarations, statements and decisions, and

of their accounts, and of the journal of their proceedings, shall be delivered by them to the agents of his Britannic majesty, and to the agents of the United States, who may be respectively appointed and authorized to manage the business on behalf of their respective governments. The said commissioners shall be respectively paid in such manner as shall be agreed between the two contracting parties, such agreement being to be settled at the time of the exchange of the ratifications of this treaty. And all other expenses attending the said commissions, shall be defrayed equally by the two parties. And in the case of death, sickness, resignation, or necessary absence, the place of every such commissioner, respectively, shall be supplied in the same manner as such commissioner was first appointed ; and the new commissioner shall take the same oath or affirmation, and do the same duties. It is further agreed between the two contracting parties, that in case any of the islands mentioned in any of the preceding articles, which were in the possession of one of the parties prior to the commencement of the present war between the two countries, should, by the decision of any of the boards of commissioners aforesaid, or of the sovereign or state so referred to, as in the four next preceding articles contained, fall within the dominions of the other party, all grants of land made previous to the commencement of the

war, by the party having had such possession, shall be as valid as if such island or islands had, by such decision or decisions, been adjudged to be within the dominions of the party having had such possession.

## ARTICLE IX.

The United States of America engage to put an end, immediately after the ratification of the present treaty, to hostilities with all the tribes or nations of Indians with whom they may be at war at the time of such ratification ; and forthwith to restore to such tribes or nations, respectively, all the possessions, rights and privileges, which they may have enjoyed or been entitled to in one thousand eight hundred and eleven, previous to such hostilities: *Provided always*, That such tribes or nations shall agree to desist from all hostilities against the United States of America, their citizens and subjects, upon the ratification of the present treaty, to hostilities with all the tribes or nations, and shall so desist accordingly. And his Britannic majesty engages, on his part, to put an end, immediately after the ratification of the present treaty, to hostilities with all the tribes or nations of Indians with whom he may be at war at the time of such ratification, and forthwith to restore to such tribes or nations, respectively, all the possessions, rights and privileges, which they

may have enjoyed or been entitled to, in one thousand eight hundred and eleven, previous to such hostilities: *Provided always*, That such tribes or nations shall agree to desist from all hostilities against his Britannic majesty, and his subjects, upon the ratification of the present treaty being notified to such tribes or nations, and shall so desist accordingly.

### ARTICLE X.

Whereas, the traffic of slaves is irreconcilable with the principles of humanity and justice; and whereas, both his majesty and the United States are desirous of continuing their efforts to promote its entire abolition; it is hereby agreed, that both the contracting parties shall use their best endeavors to accomplish so desirable an object.

### ARTICLE XI.

This treaty, when the same shall have been ratified on both sides, without alteration by either of the contracting parties, and the ratifications mutually exchanged, shall be binding on both parties, and the ratifications shall be exchanged at Washington, in the space of four months from this, or sooner if practicable.

In faith whereof, we, the respective plenipotentiaries, have signed this treaty, and have thereunto affixed our seals.

Done in triplicate, at Ghent, the twenty-fourth day of December, one thousand eight hundred and fourteen.

(L. s.)	GAMBIER,
(L. s.)	HENRY GOULBURN,
(L. s.)	WILLIAM ADAMS,
(L. s.)	JOHN QUINCY ADAMS,
(L. s.)	J. A. BAYARD,
(L. s.)	HENRY CLAY,
(L. s.)	JONATHAN RUSSELL,
(L. s.)	ALBERT GALLATIN.

Now, therefore, to the end, that the said treaty of peace and amity may be observed with good faith, on the part of the United States, I, James Madison, President as aforesaid, have caused the premises to be made public; and I do hereby enjoin all persons bearing office, civil or military, within the United States, and all others, citizens or inhabitants thereof, or being within the same, faithfully to observe and fulfil the said treaty, and every clause and article thereof.

In testimony whereof, I have caused the seal of (L. s.) the United States to be affixed to these presents, and signed the same with my hand.

Done at the city of Washington, this eighteenth day of February, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifteen, and of the sovereignty and independence of the United States, the thirty-ninth.

JAMES MADISON.

By the President,

JAMES MONROE,

*Acting Secretary of State.*













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